



KIM CATTRALL ON  
MAGIC JOHNSONS

WHY QUEBECERS LOVE THEIR GAY,  
COKE-SNORTING LEADERSHIP HOPEFUL

# MACLEAN'S

CANADA'S WEEKLY NEWSMAGAZINE | [www.macleans.ca](http://www.macleans.ca)

OCTOBER 3 2005

FORGET SARS,  
WEST NILE, EBOLA  
AND AVIAN FLU

## The real epidemic is fear

- > INSIDE EUROPE'S  
LAST DICTATORSHIP
- > WILL ARNOLD  
BE TERMINATED?
- > THE A&W LOTTERY  
FIGHT GETS NASTY

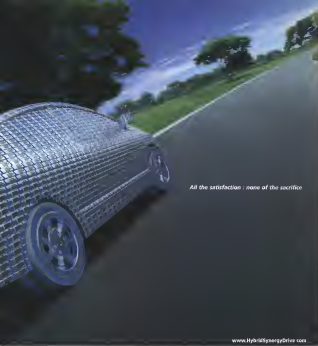


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## MACLEAN'S.CA

**WARREN EMILLA**  
The book search was a success, but there are still a few steps left on the way to the top of the list. Read all about it in this guest weblog [www.macleans.ca/wemilla](http://www.macleans.ca/wemilla)

**WILLIS WILLS**  
As the House of Commons resumes sitting this week, Paul Wells provides you with the latest political analysis in his daily weblog [www.macleans.ca/willisswills](http://www.macleans.ca/willisswills)

"I have never laughed so hard in all my life. It was refreshing, for once, to read about a politician who was saying what was really on his mind." —Wayne Stockton, *Regina*

#### 'Mainstream skunkification'

I cannot tell you what a relief Judith Denison's article was for me ("Gafagone murch," Cover, Sept. 26). The increasing loss of self-respect among young women is a phenomenon I have been avoiding more and more, and I sincerely thought I was the only one. At 25, I don't consider myself to be a grade one, but I am shocked at such self-degrading behavior.

Jennifer Chisholm, *Ottawa*

Please tell me you had this girl's permission to use her picture on the cover of your magazine. It's one thing to act dumb for a girl's sake; it's a whole other thing to act stupid on the cover of *Maclean's*. Most of us have done things in bars that we wouldn't want recorded on newsprint everywhere.

Terah T. Remers, *Calgary*

Where are the chic, articulate and genuinely humorous writers? Until they are held up by society's male models, we can only expect the "feminist market" mentality to thrive. So, as I wait out this annoying trend, please girls, hold down your daisy dukes around the urban punk of word, because I am sick and tired of seeing your faces.

BRIJ Jaramani, *Mississauga, Ont.*

Fourteen years ago my 16-year-old son went home from school because the was wearing an off-the-shoulder dress, which covered her from collar bone to knee-cap. Today, I see teenagers girls come out of their high schools with pants so low they have to shove their pubic area. What are their parents thinking? I think there is a deficit on the part of their mothers to accept their own aging. Everything has to be sexy or it's rejected as dowdy.

Reynold Kellie, *Windsor, Ont.*

Many women I know have been alarmed for years about the numerous "skunkification" cases of women, young and not-so-young, through overly sexual behaviour and eye-popping (and) over. Until both genders reject the race of sex as commodity and source of power, too many of our daughters, women,



and even men will assemble date-rape hookups. A good start in this cultural shift would be for publications like *Maclean's* to exercise pictorial restraint.

Judy Baskin, *Ottawa*

#### The underbelly of political life

Whiskey that Sam Mulroney had a sense of humor and took a winking view of his political contemporaries ("The secret Mulroney tapes," Cover, Sept. 19). Finally, an unvarnished, uncensored look at the underbelly of Canadian political life. Bravo to Peter C. Newman for his book *The Secret Mulroney Tapes: Unvarnished Confessions of a Prime Minister*, and to Mulroney himself for being the gutsy politician he really was. His status as one of the major leaders of our time has been enhanced, not diminished, by his frankness. Harper move over, bring back Mulroney.

Ken Beyer, *St. Catharines*

Newman's wit and Mulroney were friends I say with friends like Newman, who reads newsprint? It will be a long time before anyone documents anything of importance with him again.

Paul Dickson, *Calgary, Alta.*

Mulroney needs to realize that the reason most Canadians did not, and do not, like him is because he walked around like he

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Canada's most influential magazine

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It's time to upgrade our Office 97

That's a no-brainer



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Office

was king of Canada when, in reality, he was sitting on the falconer of Trudeau's Liberal. This excerpt just showed how much of an arrogant snob the man really is.

Eve James, Windsor, Ont.

The excerpt of Newman's book only confirms that Mulroney earned the right to be the most despised politician in Canada. While he denied the vividness of Trudeau, he revealed his own nature: It's not the words that make him vulgar, but the sardonic persona, he is Richard Nixon's true successor, harbouring grudges, settling scores, and imagining himself other than he is a petty man who looks in a mirror and sees a general.

Frank A. Polachuk, Toronto, B.C.

Reading your excerpt certainly hasn't changed my opinion of Boris Mulroney as one of the better prime ministers in the past 40 years. My respect for Newman as a journalist, however, has been greatly diminished. Imagine that, Prime, a politician with an ego.

David Ross, Thornbury, Ont.

How could you stop so low? In this same sort of Mulroney wish-hunt? If I was interested in reading Newman's book, I would buy it. But to waste time pages by printing such drivel is beyond belief. We have evolved our intelligence.

Martine Schmitt, Kootenay, Ont.

The real endgame in your Sept. 19 issue was not the Mulroney article but James Doan's piece on Arnold Palmer ("At play with a golfing god," Sept. 19). What a contrast to the story on Mulroney! No question that both were accomplished a lot, but I much prefer the professionally way Palmer gained his success.

Ben Shaban, Ontario, Ont.

#### Getting worked up

Save Mach between statistics provided by the American Enterprise Institute to tell us that workers are happy with their jobs ("The workers' pendium," All Business, Sept. 19). The AIE is a bastion of free-market, private enterprise-loving conservatism. Further more, those who take surveys can frame questions that elicit answers that appeal to the people who pay for them. Soft questions



What, "Do you like your job?" would yield the same kind of response as, "How are you today?" If these same people had been asked what would happen if they became sick and unable to work, the answers would have been different. For Mach to raise a connection between this seeming worker euphoria and declining union membership is the worst kind of disingenuousness. The reason for the declining numbers is that state workers have left the unions, but that gets have left the workers.

Patrick Hennessy, Mississauga, Ont.

More kudos for Katrina coverage  
It's a wonderful surprise to find such excellent articles by Joseph Boyden on New Orleans ("The drowning of New Orleans," Cover, Sept. 18). "We need to go home," Katrina, Sept. 19). Kudos to the Maclean's editorial staff for finding such a unique angle and touching personal stories—that is clearly the best business coverage we have seen, on either side of the border. Boyden's position of marginalized descriptive narrator allowed us, for the first time, to really piece together what was previously a tangle of disjointed media images.

No matter how helpful they are, news should be left in the waiting room and blemish should be left to the pros.

Ken and Willy Wilson, Boston

Good for Boyden for going back home to New Orleans to try to do something for the people and the city that remains, and for finding ways to stay as much as he is connected and informed about the real situation on the Gulf area. And good for Maclean's for including the stories of this wonderful author.

Georgina Corbucci, Toronto

Reading Boyden's articles brought tears to my eyes. I too went to university in New Orleans and I still yearn for the scent of night-blooming jasmine that permeates the city's evening air as I sit here in my L.A. office. When I am asked, I always say I was dragged out of New Orleans looking and screaming. I miss my glass to the host of regulars there.

Kate Morrell, Los Angeles

Thank you to Paul Wells for an insightful article about the true spirit of New Orleans ("A miracle of geography," The Back Page, Sept. 12). His overview of the city's history with all its sweet sounds and wonderful palate-pleasers serves to remind us that the calamities of today are just that.

Paul Jenkins, Ontario

#### Happy at the Habbo Hotel

I have never written to a magazine before, but I felt I must after reading your story on the Canadian Internet meeting place for teens, Habbo Hotel, by Danyla Hamedel on "I'm engaged in online 'marriage,'" The Internet, Sept. 19). As an aunt of a teenage girl who regularly plays on Habbo, I was very upset by your depiction of the site. Yes, there are disturbing things on the Internet, but Habbo should be the last of your worries. I really think you've misrepresented a truly wonderful environment. Quite frankly, I would much rather have my niece play on Habbo anytime than leaving her to sit alone a person's head off through the motions of the mindless video game industry.

Tanya Connolly, Toronto

#### A guy thing or a girl thing?

I'm so encouraging to see accuracy, understanding and compassion without ruminating in the press ("Why be just one sex?" Life, Sept. 12). I too consider myself more in between sexes, though I did envision from male to female with hormones, ultimately, a name change and surgery.

Still, I did not buy into destroying my past completely. (Why give up one set of rigid rules for another?) It's hard to define what is a guy thing or a girl thing anyway. Some days I am quite androgynous, although I know it really throws some people off if they can't peg me as male or female. The important thing is that I can define myself in any way I choose.

Michelle Scott, Saint John

I have a family member who recently told us that she is transgendered. She was born a boy but she feels more comfortable as a woman, though she has not undergone surgery. I was very shocked by this. I found it very difficult to understand how someone could be unhappy with such an important part of who they are. However, I now as decreased the importance of not being how you truly feel. Gloria Kofis article has really opened my eyes to how different everyone is and how much we need to embrace this difference.

Kathryn Oatwick, Toronto

#### Life after death

I read your story about presumed consent as a means to increase the pool of organ donors with interest ("It's late that a 'yes,'" Health, Sept. 19). In 1999, my aunt, Andrea, died in a car accident, one month before her 40th birthday. She was brain damaged from the accident and my sister, knowing her daughter had no chance of survival, chose organ donation. We don't know who the people are who were saved by this gift. However, we do know a girl at Ochsman received a liver transplant, two people received corneas and more than we see for the first time, and two people with advanced disease were given kidneys. Heart valves were also donated. Andrea helped many people she didn't know, and a giving family was able to come to terms with a senseless accident. Life can move from death.

Stacy O'Neil, Oshawa, Ontario, Ont.

Every once in a while, public proposals are brought forward that appear to have such a surface of common sense, one wonders why there would be any debate or delay in their implementation. The proposed consent measure is a perfect example. If proposed as a federal law, it cannot be legislated such a change in the current system, then truly our democratic

Clear sunny skies.

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**Reawaken Your Senses in Grenada**

At the bottom of the advertisement, there is a logo for "AIR CANADA" and "vacations". To the right of the logo is the "GRENADA" logo, which includes the text "GRENADA" and "Grenada, the Spice of the Caribbean". Below the logo is a small image of a red bird, likely a scarlet ibis, which is a symbol of Grenada.

bureaucracy has grown beyond belief. I'm pained, health care, reduced waiting times, better quality of life: what is there to delude Neil Phillips, Toronto

While it's unfortunate that there are many people waiting for an organ transplant, receiving an organ from another person is not a right. Rather, it is a privilege of modern medicine. The actions of potential organ donors are assumed to say "yes" to a product or service unless you state otherwise.

Michael Blanton, Amherst, Ont.

### Special delivery

Your article on children in the delivery room was very interesting ("Not a good time, mom," Sept. 18). I was able to have the delivery experience of being in the delivery room with my daughter when my grand son was born. My daughter, who was single at the time, said she would not have been able to make it through the delivery if I had not been there.

Carole-Anne Liss, Miramichi, N.B.

I can't recall a more vile example of mother beating. I can only imagine how saddened the mother mentioned in this article as she short-stripped herself identified this way. The doctor who has strong opinions about where a woman chooses to have (or not have) her child during labour and delivery have an inflated view of their self worth. Who cares what they think? They should respect that the coach or spectator not physically interfere with their job, but remember that it is about the mother and her child, not them.

Phong Chantelone, Calgary

Hanging men in the delivery room when I had my first was the last thing I saw. Actually, there were nine people other than the nurse and the doctor. My mom ended with my coaches, with my mom's coach, my dad's mom and dad, my brother, my brother's friend, and the biological father and his mother. Having all these people in there was actually more relaxing than one, and the delivery was a breeze.

Michelle Boudreau, North Battleford, Sask.

Birth is a deeply personal event between you and your partner, and you need some



time to process the reality of what has happened. I think there needs to be some privacy for the caregivers to unravel in their new baby together, no matter how helpful or well-meaning mothers and mothers-in-law are. Mom should be left in the waiting room and the baby should be left to the professionals.

Kayl Taylor, Irvington

### Peace and the pocketbook

Leslie Ch. Singer presents arguments that Canada should formally participate in the U.S. ballistic-missile defense system ("That lost BMD sale," *Dailies*, Sept. 12.) And she writes a balanced article, she would have written why Prime Minister Paul Martin declined to sign a series of understandings in support of the project. Canadians are opposed to it. There are strong reasons, such as a proliferation of weapons does not guarantee world peace. If the U.S. deploys more missiles, wouldn't other nations, such as China and Russia, follow suit?

And a BMD system could lead eventually to placement of missiles on satellites in space. In fact, the Bush administration has requested that money be put toward developing and testing such missiles. Arguments in space would add a new dimension to weapons. Furthermore, the BMD system is expensive. If Canada signed on, wouldn't it be prudent to expect that we will be asked to contribute financially?

Richard Ellis, Winnipeg

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Canada's National News Magazine

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# UP FRONT



## Afghanistan election | Voters in a dangerous time

Now for the hard part. Last week, after Afghanistan's historic parliamentary and provincial council elections on Sept. 18, officials settled in to count the ballots, a process that is expected to be completed by Oct. 22. An estimated six million people voted—little over 50 per cent of the electorate, fewer than the 47 per cent who cast their ballots in last year's presidential election won by Hamid Karzai. That same day voters for 5,600 councillors running for 248 seats in the lower national house and 428 places on 34 provincial councils.

The new parliament is expected to be a fractious place, mirroring a country that remains divided and dangerous. The vote itself was marred by violence as at least 14 people died at the hands of Taliban gun fire. And speculation over Afghanistan's future after Hamid Karzai's term ends next year was again fuelled by gun groups who continue

to settle in to count the ballots, a historic process that is likely to be completed by Oct. 22. Karzai (Ottawa)

Among those troops are Canadians, including members of the special forces joint Task Force 2. Although their work has usually been about security, last week the Canadian forces released some information about their activities, acknowledging that JTFC has been involved in the capture and killings of Afghan rebels.

Canada's general forces in Afghanistan, meanwhile, will undertake a new mission in February, patrolling and in southern province of Kandahar—the Taliban heartland. Defence Minister Bill Graham warned last week of the possibility of casualties in "one of the most unstable and dangerous regions of Afghanistan." Speaking at a luncheon of the Montreal Council on Foreign Relations, he added that "Canadians should have a very difficult time as a very complex, very demanding, and very dangerous mission. It is possible that there will be loss of life."



Quote of the week: 'We kissed our child goodbye and then crept off to blow up King's Cross.' SAMANTHA LEWISWHITE, 31-year-old widow of London bomber James

Lewis (London, 15, who killed 27 people in the blast) on Sept. 7

## ScoreCard

100 MINUTES

At the time made it to second New Michael. What's new could read version of 100. Quickest story ever told seems to bring young and readers into the fold. Should also consider the arrest. There's even possibly be room for all 10. Considerations, can they?

PAUL COFFIN

As new definition. Teachers of \$1.6 million in Quebec's sponsorship score did. Data base years of evening hours. arrest, said order to lecture about ethical topics. Another will get increased when it comes to crime, while other is the way to go.

BOB W. MAND

And/or of John Roberts, George W. Bush's choice as chief justice of the U.S., would determine for judicial ruling. A good thing, too. Like they're saying in New Orleans, those were the only two sides out of nine.

GONE POSTAL

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## THE WEEK

**GOMERY** A Quebec Superior Court judge ruled on Ottawa to delay the release of Justice John Gomery's first report into the sponsorship scandal, scheduled for Nov. 1. That would be during the **trial** of Jean Bédard and Chuck Goss, two of the main figures in the scandal, and Justice Fraser Martin said publication of the report might compromise their rights to a fair trial.

**BUDGET** Last year's federal budget came in with a surplus of only \$8.6 billion, compared to some projections of as much as \$7 billion. The government said that was the result of last-minute spending, but the opposition claimed the Liberals were playing with the books.

**FOUND** The remains of 18-year-old Jennifer Trugue were discovered in a south-west Ontario conservation area near her home, by an off-duty police officer on a Sunday walk with his family. Trugue left her part-time job at a neighbourhood Wendy's after midnight on Sept. 8. She was last seen about an hour later walking home from a nearby convenience store.

**Hazing:** Montreal's McGill University found itself in the middle of a hazing scandal after an 18-year-old football player left the institution claiming he had been degraded by his teammates. An associate criminal charge

involved being orally prodded by "Dr. Brown"—a brown handle. The university is investigating, even as the McGill Tribune reported that the football team ride is an annual event.

**MILWAUKEE** William Mullins-Johnson, who spent 12 years in prison for the rape and murder of his four-year-old niece, was released on bail. A recent report contradicted evidence against him compiled by professionals including Wisconsin's famous pathologist Dr. Charles Smith, much of whose work is now under scrutiny.



**Survivor:** Former Quebec MNA Richard Hoider, who was suffering from back pain, took his own life in Montreal. The controversial politician, who entered the National

Assembly as a member of the anglophone-rights Equality party but subsequently went over to the Parti Québécois, jumped from the balcony of his eighth-floor apartment.

By the week's end, efforts to evacuate residents of the coastal area of Texas from the projected path of Hurricane Rita resulted in 160-lm-long traffic jams as more than 2.5 million people filled up evacuation routes. Gas prices skyrocketed—Stratford, Ont., posted \$3.24 a litre last Thursday—fuel that the storm would further damage the U.S. oil industry.

**APPROVES** The U.S. Senate Judiciary committee approved the nomination of Judge John Roberts as chief justice of the Supreme Court. The vote was 13-5, with three of the committee's eight Democrats voting in favour along with the 10 Republicans. Roberts's nomination is now virtually assured to a full Senate vote scheduled to be held this week. President George W. Bush has one more Supreme Court vacancy to fill.

**SAFE LANDING** A jetBlue A-320 airliner with 120 and jammed front landing gear spent three hours circling over the southern California coast before arranging an emergency landing in the Los Angeles airport. The 140 frightened passengers watched as the plane's low-to-flight rescuers as the pilot made a textbook emergency landing.

**ELECTIONS** Germany remained in political limbo, with neither Angela Merkel's Christian Democratic Union or Chancellor Gerhard Schröder's Social Democrats able to form a government after the Sept. 18 election. At week's end, both sides were looking at potential alliances, including the possibility of a "grand coalition" with each other.

As Poles prepared for a general election on the weekend, Law and Justice party leader Jerzy Buzek attacked Polish Russian hostility by saying Russia was using methods even the Nazis would not have considered in insulting London against Poles. His comments appeared from attacks against two Polish diplomatic personnel and a young cabin in Moscow after three Russian children were snatched in Warsaw. Many Poles say Russian President Vladimir Putin's strong condemnation of the latter murders resulted in the Moscow revenge attacks.



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## Mansbridge on the Record



## IT'S NOT JUST THE LINKS

Scottish golfing holidays are about so much more than the historic courses

**EACH** FALL, along with a few friends, I make a pilgrimage to Scotland to play some of the old courses from the golf lords built into the seaside landscape. This year was no exception. These quick trips, just a few days long, are good for the soul—and not just because of the golf.

In the little community of Lonsborough in Scotland's Moray Firth, we were so far from the city that the Scottish word for "England" was playing in someone's World Cup soccer qualifying rounds. Scotland was up first and not surprisingly, the streets of Lonsborough, suddenly like all others in Scotland, were deserted, while the pubs were full. Scotland was and the celebration began. The coverage then switched to Belfast, where Northern Ireland, which isn't technically a writing English team in more than 70 years, was ready for battle. The pub had pretty well emptied, except for a few scrapping gleeful onlookers. Not a single pair of eyes, though, was raised to the television, and when we asked why the answer came back, "Well, it's England." Does this mean Scotland's room of Scotland, Owen, Rooney and a manager who makes, was for a \$11 million a year, and even then Northern Ireland scoring in the second half for a shocking win, no one bothered to watch. When pressed, it was clear they were happy for the Irish, but they weren't about to disrupt their evening to cheer the English, even in defeat. Some grudging cheer it.

Further along the coast, we stopped for a night in Tain. It's a charming town that has a traveler could expect—hotels, restaurants, banks, pubs.

shops. And history. In the middle of the main square stands a memorial. I thought it was for Naam's war dead, but this wasn't about soldiers. Here, the people of Naam remembered a resident who had guided a generation in the late 19th century. Not a mayor, not a sports figure, not a poet or painter—but a teacher. It made me think, we all like to recall that our teacher who affected us, whose style made us want to learn, but a memorial in the center of town? The next I thought about it though, the more sense it made—surely I suggest no one does teachers in Naam.

All right, then, permit me one Scottish golf story. Just as our thirteenth was about to tee off at Cruden Bay, an elderly local kindly approached. He was in golfing gear we don't normally see in North America. Black trousers, a very proper shirt and tie. One of our group asked if he was looking to join us. And he so politely responded, "Oh, would you mind?" Mind? Hardly. "We spent a delightful four hours in the company of a remarkable man and his family." He was 75, a retired RAF officer and civil servant who proudly declared his 127 handicap, and always putted out, carrying down our offers of "gimmies." We asked for the secret of his long and apparently healthy life, especially when we caught him disappearing between holes for a cigarette. His answer? "Thirteen cups of tea a day with three spoonfuls of sugar each. And to top that off, his fingers repeatedly dive into a bag of raffia." We kept wondering how he was still standing.

He was a perfect companion. Perhaps among we were all desperate to play well, at one point he mumbled and vented, "Don't focus on your score, boys, the game isn't about numbers, it's about enjoying the day." Can't miss that next year.

Peter Mansbridge is Chief Correspondent of CBC Television News and Anchor of the National Television News.

## Passages

**DIED** Nazi hunter Simon Wiesenthal, who, in his own words, worked most of his life as "the lawyer for six million dead people," died at home in Vienna at age 95. An engineer in Ukraine,



Wiesenthal was arrested in Nazi death camps, where 89 relatives died, from 1941 to 1945. His lifelong efforts to keep the memory of the Holocaust alive and bring its perpetrators to justice resulted in the capture and trial of 1,100 war criminals.

**PLEADED GUILTY** Conrad Black's night had even at Hollinger International, David Radler, 63, accepted a plea agreement in Chicago under which he would be sent to prison for 29 months and pay a US\$150,000 fine for his role in a scheme to mislead US\$22 in fines from the newspaper holding company. Radler was released on bail pending his testimony in the ongoing case.

**DROPPED** London rapper-model Kate Moss, 34, has lucrative contracts with cosmetics, perfume and retail giants such as Chanel and Burberry after newspaper photographs of her allegedly wearing cocaine were published in Boston. Moss, the co-signer, also again girlfriend of notorious British rock star Pete Dinklage, has a two-year-old daughter, Lila Grace, by magazine publisher Jefferson Hack.

**SENTENCED** In New York City, Tyson International chief Dennis Kozlowski, 58, and his CFO Mark Swartz, 45, were sentenced to no less than 8½ years in prison, and make pay fines and reimburse of US\$170 million and US\$72 million respectively for 22 counts of grand larceny and fraud.

Memorial of man Paul Collins, 63, was convicted of fraud in the sponsorship scandal, but although he deflected Ottawa of \$1.6 million, he will serve no jail time. Collins will spend two years less a day on a conditional sentence to be served in the community.



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CLIVE BEDDOE

## PULLING WESTJET OUT OF ITS DIVE

**IN 1996**, Clive Beddoe and three other Calgary entrepreneurs launched WestJet—a no-frills, cheap-carrier, low-cost sky airline. With three airplanes and 120 employees, it flew to five western Canadian cities. Today, it has 57 planes and 5,000 employees, and flies to 34 locations. It has survived the post-9/11 industry meltdown and intense competition, but now it's faced with a plunging stock price, rising fuel costs and suggestions that it may be getting away from its low-cost roots. Beddoe, 51, WestJet's CEO, spoke last week with Maclean's National Correspondent Katherine Mackinnon.

**We've noticed some changes, including fares going up, before this summer. They did and they didn't. The published fares rose, but the marketplace ended up**

**with multiple seat sales. Our biggest single challenge is there have been dragged into seat-mile mode especially while the price of fuel has been climbing**

**Who is dragging you into seat-mile mode?**  
[Laughs] Shall I call them just a competitor or the protagonists? At Canada is now so focused with fuel issues, they want to perpetuate the story of their so-called success without having a focus on the bottom line.

**That sounds like a flip of roles. You're the low-cost carrier.**

**Absolutely.** But we also have a greater sense of corporateness toward our shareholders. I mean, if you bankrupt a monopoly, how can you be showing responsibility toward your shareholders?

**Talking about shareholders, WestJet stock has dropped to below \$11 from above \$17 last spring.**  
Because of the price of oil and the sector being so out of focus.

**Around every other week there's a new air carrier in bankruptcy protection in North America. Is that a good or bad thing for WestJet?**

Fundamental economics should see the successful prosper and the weak fail. But our system apparently tends toward those that are unsuccessful. The bankruptcy system does that. The principle is fundamentally flawed when you think about it. The U.S. carriers go to preserve their dominant positions in the hubs that they fly to even though they have not paid their bills. How does that make sense? At Canada walked away from owing the airport millions and millions of dollars. It still gets the same good and preferential treatment, while we pay our bills and don't.

**You have made other changes: leather seats, TVs for each passenger. Leather seats are actually very low cost. They cost about half as much but they last a lot longer, and the public loves it. They feel much more luxurious than fabric. Overall, they are actually a savings to us. TV is very much a win for the consumer. Travelling is a very boring process. Being squeezed into a cigar tube at 40,000 feet, flying at 500 miles an hour, isn't everybody's idea of a way to spend an afternoon. So, if we can make that more pleasurable and let the time pass in the faster, then absolutely we will do it. It brings us more guests, as we call them, then it's obviously a win for us. We are going to bring movies on board as well.**

**Perhaps the most honourable thing about the Honourable James Bertleman is his openness about depression.**

Ontario's Lieutenant Governor, James Bertleman, speaks out every chance he gets about depression. It's a subject he knows all too well, having battled the illness for almost a decade. The risk to strong family support and an effective course of medication, he is thriving and making an enormous difference in addressing the stigma associated with mental illness.

Those who have been touched by his honesty, candour and message of hope when he talks about the challenges of rising above the pain. As Honorary Patron of CAMH,

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#### Interview | >

**How do you see the established carriers evolving?**

I foresee a day when the legacy carriers wake up to recognize that what they do well is long-haul international flying. The reason they lose business of money (being in the domestic market) is because they have this vision that they can prosper if they dominate and control the feed into their network. So you force people into your system not because you do a good job but because they haven't any alternative. You don't have to worry about overvaluing airplanes or being on time or losing bags. And that is exactly what all those major carriers have developed. Now they are facing a horrendous, horrendous problem in that there is an emerging new sector in the industry, classically called low-cost carriers. The I don't really like the term.

**Part of your plan includes taking other business travelers. Will we see a business-class section with five drinks?**

No, no, no. No. But while we're in a first class? As we become more appealing, we become a much more viable alternative to Air Canada. As such, we can then position ourselves more to the business community.

**How do you make sure you don't turn into your competitors?**

That's a cultural phenomenon. It's a matter of making the right people, bringing the right people into the company and ensuring the wrong people don't stay with you. We have a team of people who are passionately committed to the company.

**You also have staff who are now looking for a ride and a return to profitability. They have always looked for rates.**

**It sounds like there is some discontent.**

That's a good manner. There is no question that a certain number are going to have a certain degree of discontent. Profit sharing is down, it's down by 30% of the cost of fuel. The bigger problem with fuel prices is not so much the absolute price but the volatility and the difficulty we have in pricing our product when you sell a seat based on a \$50 oil and fly in some weeks, or a month later, at \$65.

**Air Canada emerged from bankruptcy protection in one piece. Do you think it will survive?**

It will always survive. Will it be prosperous or not because completely different issue. If you artificially suggest your costs by being up on your losses, that is only short-lived. Sooner or later, you have to pay the price. We've already got a huge cost advantage over Air Canada. I have got to tell you that, just like gravity, economies ultimately does prevail.

**How do you see the established carriers evolving?**

I foresee a day when the legacy carriers wake up to recognize that what they do well is long-haul international flying. The reason they lose business of money (being in the domestic market) is because they have this vision that they can prosper if they dominate and control the feed into their network. So you force people into your system not because you do a good job but because they haven't any alternative. You don't have to worry about overvaluing airplanes or being on time or losing bags. And that is exactly what all those major carriers have developed. Now they are facing a horrendous, horrendous problem in that there is an emerging new sector in the industry, classically called low-cost carriers. The I don't really like the term.

**I take it you don't like "no-frills" either?**

I like high efficiency carriers—we are not low-costing.

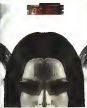
**The logical conclusion to your thoughts is that WestJet will be Canada's dominant carrier. Am I right?**

We will see. Dominant—I don't like the term. You succeed in life and business because you provide a good quality service for a good price. If that leads to us dominating the dominant carrier, then it is simply because the public has dictated it, not because that's what we've driven toward. If that's the case, we're already winning, well, so be it. We are a quasi-commodity business. He who has the lowest cost, ultimately wins. On a sustainable basis, as long as we have a long-term, low-cost, high quality service and other airlines are able to do better, that we may well become the larger carrier in Canada.

**We're disappointed that we're not hearing jokes on board. What happened?**

Oh, you do hear jokes. It's just that we now have 1,200 flight attendants and not every one is comfortable doing it. And, there are different types of flights. Flights going to Las Vegas where everyone is giggled up and happy and probably had a few drinks have a whole different environment on board than a 7 a.m. flight between Toronto and Ottawa. There's nothing worse than trying to get people to laugh when they are not interested. At 7 in the morning, very few people are.

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**SAMSUNG**

# OTTAWA HOROSCOPE

A look at the issues and forces that will play out during a tense, testy fall

**PAUL MARTIN** and Stephen Harper are in the same boat. Both have shown skill when it comes to staying control of a political party. Neither has demonstrated any comparable capacity for grabbing hold of the imagination of Canadians. In the absence of hold media and ground forces, they have been defined in ways they can't like. Martin's critics call him the strident-deficit-disorder Prime Minister who resembles his way through our money files. Harper's tag line as a hard-to-warm-up-to guy who waters down his true right-leaning convictions as a bid for electability. So the task before them this fall is the same: redefine themselves before the next election. Strategies for both are laying plans

not just that as headlines restate this week in the House of Commons.

In a speech to businessmen last week, Martin made his latest bid to convince his audience, mingling out the rising power of China and India as Canada's key inter-national challenge, and the aging of the baby boomers as the biggest domestic concern. While Martin was touting driving big themes, Harper faced more immediate problems, including a call to step down from a disgruntled Toronto Tory organizer. But his advisers say that after a summer overhaul of his staff, he's positioned to answer orders. As the autumn heats up, here's a look at the files that matter as a fall that's shaping up as anxious, tiny-steps-at-a-time campaign this fall or next spring.



**CHUCK CADMAN'S LEGACY:** Who would make neighborhood walls a divisive issue familiar as provincial and local elections. Yet this fall both Martin and Harper are likely to make the B.C. independent MP who died in July of cancer and whose advocacy of justice reform grew from the stabbing death of his 35-year-old son, Jesse, in 1992. The government is planning to introduce two bills that are being called "Chuck Cadman legacy laws," one possibly down on street naming and the other on car theft, along with a



roll of other new justice initiatives. Harper doesn't want to let this file, which Tories see as a natural wedge for them, slip away. His new Tory task force on crime—announced in Toronto after a spate of bombings in the city—says he had to ensure public safety as a key campaign theme.

**PUMP THE ECONOMY:** Conservatives think the name cast of filling up our empty pump new line was their old law in play. "This is a situation where people who don't always get excited about cars can see the merits," says Tory Finance critic Michael Sagem. Basically how big a gas-tax cut Harper will call for is still being kept quiet. But the Conservative message to try to parlay popular demand for relief in the pumps into

broader support for tax reductions. Liberals are resisting pressure to cut gas taxes. They're trying to design a scheme to allow some relief on higher home heating fuel costs to low-income households. Finance Minister Ralph Goodale's fall economic update is expected to try to sell education and innovation as the keys to prosperity. But those lofty aims, so frequently repeated in Ottawa, will have to be dressed up with attention-grabbing specifics if Martin hopes to make their campaign winners.

**PLAYING OFF THE PREMIERS:** Beyond Quebec, Harper's sympathy with premiers who complain of a "flood-investment," which broadly means they think Ottawa should give them more money, makes him the pro-governments federal leader. By contrast, Martin is laying claim to being the pro-municipalities Prime Minister. This fall, words for the Liberals to hammer are federal provincial-municipal urban planning agreements with Toronto and Calgary, deals that might allow Martin to run as the PM who under stands big cities. At the same time, some Liberal campaign warhorses to handle the provinces were health writing desks, if the provinces fail to make convincing heads toward implementing last fall's health-pact to shrink them. Harper would pose as laissez-faire on city governments, respectful of their jurisdiction in health. But Martin's case as champion of national health goals might prove better to campaign on.

**BAGN THE BACCO:** Liberal MPs and strategists are selling a much tougher line on the New Quebecers. Early evidence: Foreign Minister Peter Pettigrew's charged recently that the BQ is intolerant of ethnic minorities. It's not just about banning the BQ for Quebec voters where the aboriginal vote is strong, according to Liberal insiders. The Liberal message to voters outside Quebec is that it is a minority House, the



opposition party that does—so give us a majority. Harper has his own Quebec problems, after coming under public fire from a few disgruntled Tory outsiders in the province, and his low poll standings there drove him to stress as a truly national leader. His long-term hope is that Conservative respect for personal jurisdiction will resonate with Quebecers.

**GLOBAL GRIM TIDINGS:** Can Martin turn one of the government's international maniac political wars? That isn't a good word. In October, Canada will host an international summit in Ottawa on how to prepare for an avian flu pandemic. And global warming has a big place on the fall agenda: a huge UN climate change conference is scheduled for Nov. 28-Dec. 9 in Montreal. Will Ottawa play the coping with a quasi-BQ epidemic card seriously? Will Canada lead credible on meeting Kyoto greenhouse gas reduction reductions?



Liberals want to look like leaders on both. Tories will cast them as unprepared. The Montreal meeting could be a victory-matched after Government officials expect some environmentally conscious voters to show up (Robert Redford's name is whispered) along with energetic political names from the U.S. (Senator John McCain is a possibility). The inevitable buzz will draw Canadian politicians of all stripes.

**SEASON OF STORMACH:** Last spring's most surprising political story was behind Stoschek's defiance to the Liberals from the Conservatives. Martin has handed her three key files in his house: innovation and skills development matters. On the co-

science front, she'll be pushing education and skills as the keys to our competitiveness. On the reform of government, she's spearheading Service Canada, the new federal department that will oversee delivery of everything from pensions to passports. And she's got a lead role in responding to Justice John Goss's inquiry into the sponsorship scandal. She'll try to shift the focus from voter-claiming corruption to voter-swooning reform. "If there was wrongdoing, individuals should be brought to justice," Stoschek said in an interview. "But the big issue is managing taxpayer money wisely. We need to look at what lessons we can learn from the sponsorship scandal." Needless to say, Harper will try to tear her down. He must be attentive on the original arena, not the cleanup operation.



**READY TO RUN:** Over shadowing all the issues is the single biggest political preoccupation.

When will the election come? Martin has promised to call one within 30 days of Gorey declaring his final recommendations, but that's been put off to Feb. 1. Harper might decide it would be better to force a vote over Gorey's final report, scheduled Nov. 1, which will detail the judge's findings, but not how he would change government to set a similar standard as the future. The members of the majority House under a pro-union plan. Martin needs the support of the NDP, along with at least two of the three independent MPs, to secure, ensuring the Conservatives and the Bloc are aligned against him. But even a slight change might up the balance.

That means House dissolution is real—and likely realizable. The word is poisonous. "There's been a breakdown in communications," explains Tory House leader Jay Hill. "It's all about pre-election positioning," admits one minister inside Martin's. Harper may try to redefine themselves this fall as policy resources. But with the resolve the Hill warning says they might have to settle for winning their traditional underdog partisan campaigns. **CB**

# BETTER WITH COKE

Why Quebecers love their gay, drug-snorting PQ leadership hopeful

HE'S GOT the looks of a movie star, a grin that could melt icebergs, and, at 36, in a political formation made up mostly of white-haired veterans, André Boissieu still passes for young. So what better than a little political suspense to set up his campaign for the Parti Québécois leadership over more? At the onset, he admitted he is gay, and "proud of being in such a vibrant society." Two weeks ago, he went on *101 le monde en parle*, the province's biggest talkshow, and admitted to having smoked pot.

Then André Boissieu discovered that playing with fire is a good way to get burned. Reporters began grilling him about his rumored pot-and-a-little-bacon-fueled, cocaine-driven all night revelry. He finally admitted to "youthful errors," adding, "it's all behind me now."

Hey, it wasn't. Not yet.

Five decades in 1969 at 23, Boissieu became a cabinet minister at 30 and was the opposition house leader when he quit in 2004 to go to Harvard. National Assembly members seemed to know Boissieu had used coke more recently, where in rehab. "I don't think anyone had to look to us. We'd heard the rumors," a press gallery member says. "It's just that nobody felt the urge to bring out an after hours pay line to check dates out at the time."

Boissieu was soon reminded how much the PQ—which has turned on the likes of René Lévesque and Lucien Bouchard—enjoys lurching on a freemason. "There's a lot of my own and I certainly don't want to see someone become involved," said leadership candidate Richard Legault. François Guindon, a veteran PQ minister, noted the limit: "We had all heard the rumors. If there is anything else we should know, it's up to André to come forward."

By early last week, Boissieu looked frazzled and on the verge of a meltdown. He argued by reporters, he finally conceded he had "consumed" while in cabinet. He insisted quite vehemently that he is clean



André Boissieu, after the admission of cocaine use, has jumped on the pot bandwagon.

now, and always had his own about his while at work.

And then Boissieu discovered that roadkill can indeed get back on the race, and roam. A poll by Léger Marketing showed last Wednesday that despite, or perhaps because, of the scandal, Boissieu's popularity had shot up, and that the eight other candidates in the Nov. 15 leadership race were eating his dust, with former finance minister Pauline Marois a distant second. The public had seen enough of the past hand-cupping candidate: "It is a very Catholic reflex the winner has confessed his sins, and

should be forgiven," Yves Dupol, a Montreal communications expert, says. Journalists were dupol-fondled; Boissieu's leadership opponents eyed an inside dog before the first official candidates' debates last week.

Boissieu, described by a former schoolmate as "a Bismarck-style politician, no hard edge, stoic-open kind of guy," was able to patch himself up, and dance through last Wednesday's debate. A few barbs were traded during the tightly scripted exchange, which was confined to discussing public finances, but "personal" questions were banned. Boissieu promised to pay down the debt—not a hot PQ priority.

Then, after a newspaper report revealed that the overwhelming majority of the 83,000 or so card-carrying PQ members are busy boozers, out-touring, and enjoying retirement, or enjoying it already, Boissieu filed a building with 1,600 carbonic Université de Montréal students on Thursday, reportedly selling 300 new membership cards. So, Boissieu is still in, but, apparently, still on his feet. "If he has no other solution as his dust, the race is probably over for Marois and the others," a veteran Liberal organizer says. "What we don't know yet is how big an 'it' that is."

Dupol, a veteran political organizer, warns that the Léger poll doesn't mean much in the long run. "People's tolerance for a man on the verge—but in a leadership race or an election, people look for a winner, they don't vote for a victim."

Boissieu's burden now is to convince PQ members that a coke-snorting gay man just off the five-week con lead them to their Promised Land.



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## SENATOR CLEAR-CUT

What do you do when your neighbour from hell is a member of the Upper House?

**IT'S A QUANT RULE** for an institution many consider an anachronism: a person can own at least \$4,000 worth of property to be eligible for appointment to Canada's Senate. Lame change these days, but when the *Principles of Confederation* imposed the requirement in 1867, the nation was used to 40 acres the annual average Canadian income. The institution, says parliamentary expert C.E.S. (Neil) Frank, professor emeritus at Queen's University, was a design to upper house that would protect the interests of the monopoly class from the "daughters of unremitted desecration" in the House of Commons.

Senator Raymond Langevin seems to have missed the part about possessing the interests of property owners—other than his own, at any rate. But according to his neighbours just outside picturesque White

Bird, Que., he's certainly violated the superior, albeit-silence-stride announced by the founding fathers in the 16 months since he purchased roughly 1.5 acres of prime land on the edge of the national capital, now with control over the Liberal senator has carefully disregarded environmental and other laws and used his personal power to bully locals. "He basically believes he has



Langevin bought in a backhoe, and was served three stop-work orders.

privilege and he can do what he wants," says André Lalonde, who lives across the river and watched in dismay as the over-lush wetland now owned by Langevin became a barren eyesore.

Langevin got the land for \$19,600, a bargain because all but about 10 per cent of it is designated as a flood zone, which under provincial law can't be developed. The municipality's planner, Marie Marchildon, explained the law to Langevin before he bought the land. Nevertheless, over the summer of 2004, Langevin cleared trees and brush, dumped loads of sand, drilled a well and hired an enormous backhoe to create a boat ramp out of the riverbank. The municipality issued three stop-work orders and went to court to force Langevin to remove the riverbank. He's since launched a counter-suit, contending the property is

wrongly designated as a flood plain. No one has been on for trial. "Maybe he developed because he is a senator," it's now easy for him to pass over the bylaws, "states Marchildon, who calls Langevin "a real special guy."

The dispute quickly degenerated into petty tales of woe as the one local reporter who photographed Langevin's property from a bridge on the river, and a man's power not being possessed to another man who paddled past (and who did the raising and mooring is unclear). Neighbours say anyone approaching by road was photographed by Langevin's wife and told to keep off the property, which is now almost totally enclosed by a fence and a locked gate and plastered with signs declaring "private property" and "vested rights."

Last fall, acting on trespassing complaints from Langevin, police warned several neighbours to stay off the senator's land. The neighbours denied setting foot on it and suspect Langevin used his position to contact police or to intimidation campaigns.

One local complaint to government Senator leader Jack Austin that Langevin's conduct embarrasses the Senate, particularly since he sits on environmental committees.

Although most senators are primarily taken aback that one of their own is "involved in Mickey Mouse shit like this," another member points, Austin, says, "Langevin was not 'involved in Mickey Mouse shit' like this, he was involved in it."

The Senate was finally forced to intervene this summer after an assistant in Langevin's office was caught cutting down some 18 trees and saplings on Neil Langevin's adjacent property while clearing a path for hybrid pines. When confronted, Daniel Cloutier identified himself as the senator's employee and claimed he had permission to chop the trees from Hydro-Québec—which the utility denied. Days later, police visited Langevin with orders to stay away from Langevin's property. Further, a natural public servant, was disabused. "I said, 'Well, I must be missing something here, because I haven't been on his land, he's cut down my trees, he's in

court, having broken local rules—and you're telling me to behave myself?'"

Determined to force the Senate to finally address Langevin's behaviour, Lalonde used the committee on internal economy, budget and administration to determine whether Cloutier's actions constituted an improper use of Senate resources, which could be used strictly for parliamentary functions. Chairman George Furey says the matter will be raised at the committee's forthcoming after Parliament resumes this month. Should it conclude Langevin violated the rules, Furey says the committee can recommend "measures be reinforced or certain discipline be taken."

Neither Langevin nor Cloutier responded to requests for comment. However, Cloutier told the Ottawa Citizen he chopped down the trees on his first time as a surprise for his boss. The Senate was in session on July 26, when Cloutier worked his duties, and Furey says records will be checked to see if the side was on holiday and operating on his

own initiative, which would clear Langevin. But Furey's comment may not be the deeper. Neighbours say Cloutier spends copious time mowing grass and doing odd jobs around Langevin's

property. Lalonde scathingly thought Cloutier was a senator. "He probably lives there."

Langevin isn't in good odour with Prime Minister Paul Martin, having publicly blamed him in 2003 for the Senate campaign to replace John Charest (the former prime minister rewarded Langevin two years later with a Senate appointment after his nine unsuccessful years as a Montreal member of Parliament). And milder-sounding Liberals won't necessarily bend over backwards to protect Langevin, who was supposedly poised to defect to the Tories during the last election. Langevin vehemently denied the accusation, but still he's considered non-player. One senior political desk jockey says "an individual who's going to do things his own way." Another Liberal is blunter: "He's a jerk." And in Whitefield, where opinions seem to be much the same, Langevin says he's never had a word there should be another sign added to the ones that currently adorn Langevin's property: "Your Tax Dollars at Work."

**NEIGHBOURS** say the senator used his position to enlist police in an intimidation campaign against them

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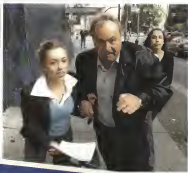
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# TOUGH LUCK

An A&W workers' dispute in Mission, B.C., over a \$14.5-million lottery ticket has turned nasty, with allegations of lies, deceit—even threats of physical harm

FOR A MONTH now, folks in the Fraser Valley city of Mission, B.C., have been devouring a high stakes soap opera along with their burgers and root beer at the local A&W. It began the morning of Aug. 20, when the gods of chance and fate, or perhaps just the power of a lucky las, resulted in the drawing of numbers 94 13 23 26 38 on that night's Lotto 6/49. That afternoon, as was often the case before a big jackpot, an informal pool of A&W staff bought a ticket. It held nine \$1 "quick picks." They looked in a restaurant directory at who'd sold, and went back to work. The chance of a single ticket containing all six winning numbers was slim to none—just one in 33,963,816. Yet it's like that, they didn't expect to win. They've tried, and that's the problem began: were these mere members of the pool, or 11, or 13?

Last Friday, a consortium of players and their eight lawyers gathered in Vancouver before Donald Bennett, Chief Justice of the British Columbia Supreme Court, to begin the complex and expensive process of resolving ownership. The ticket is worth a staggering \$14,507,724, plus interest—more than enough, it is noted, to alter the course of 13 lives for home, and for some. Family, friends and former friends of the various factions sat in separate sections of Courtroom 20, the large, high security room



The order was buttressed out with the agreement of lay lawyers, after Susan Griffin, representing the nine who first claimed the prize, said it was unfair to deny her clients their anticipated share of the money during litigation that could conceivably last five years.

Today, the matter is whether they can hold any claims "prior to reason."

The order created more issues: millionaires—and perhaps nine early winners from the fast food industry—but it's unlikely to hold as increasingly more workers

"It's been stressful, it's tense, with everybody," said Mike Hesley, the father of 16-year-old Sarah, a part-time worker who is among the four claimants still fighting for a share of the prize. "All we can say is we hope the arbitrators decide." It's hard to tell. It's not a legal case and unable to play the lottery. Sarah, the only one of five claimants to offer even a brief comment Friday, said the dispute has made life difficult at work. "It's been pretty bad with some people down there," she said. Still, her father added, "most of the time I have been pretty good to her."

Remarkably, all 13 employees have con-

tinued working side-by-side, even as they were fighting each other for their economic future. It was all the more amusing, considering that the first they were taking behind the scenes: allegations of lies, deceit, even threats of physical harm. Those claims, on which much of the story is based, are contained in sworn affidavits, unsigned in court. Several of the lawyers have already served notice that there will be a tough cross-examination of many of the most inflammatory claims as the litigation drags on.

**THAT TENSE** dispute about money not buying happiness? Take a seat. See it in no time. It's the big morning call before the lunch rush at the Mission A&W, a week before the hearing, and Wengacher is working the front counter. She's 19, cute and blond. She may even be hot, though that is a question for the courts. On this morning she seems, as her mother, Lee, has described her, "defiant." Relationships have deteriorated among a once tight group of co-workers. Wengacher suddenly sweeps an already apologetic, and dished burgers and Chubby Cheeses to the light pre-lunch crowd. A woman using the drive-thru window can't see the cashier. "Now, are you girls all right?" Wengacher shrinks back as though the question comes physical pain. "I don't talk about that," she says, jokingly, but with enough steel to spike that topic of conversation. The truth is, she doesn't know. She may be very rich or very disappointed.

Working in the kitchen this morning is Frances Carosone, a part-owner of the franchise, and one of the group of nine who claim sole ownership of the jackpot. This past has at odds with Wengacher and the three other full employees who also want a share of the winning. Wengacher narrows her eyes, and she, with a right smile, he deflects yet another interview request. "Don't you have anything better to write about," he asks. "That's people dying all



around the world." He has told the local press his priority is serving burgers and fries.

The jackpot has not a Supreme Court decision since it was disputed on Sept. 8 by the B.C. Lottery Corp., after it had washed its hands of the conflicting and contradictory claims for ownership. The most account pays a less than stellar interest rate of 2.25 per cent. Even at that, the prize grows by \$694.21 per day, or more than \$6,260 per week. More seriously, the legal bills grow faster.

The future looks rougher on two counts. First, a group of nine stepped up to claim the prize. Then four others—Wengacher,

McQuillan, 24, Rami Johnston, 22, and Hesley, a Grade 10 student—came forward, each with differing versions of why they are owed a share. The resolution might set in an obvious choice between two options: divide the pot by nine, with each share about \$1,611,969. Or split it 13 ways, each getting \$1,119,819. Either way, a bunch of people need either flip another burger. If it was over that simple, it's not new.

In Mission, a little farther away on the north shore of the Fraser River, the plight of low wage workers squabbling over the difference between a \$1.1 million or \$1.6 million ticket into the upper dome hasn't elicited much local sympathy. Opinions close between those arguing the right to share, or the other four to stick away. Some claim

## THE FAMILY 'HAS A BAD REPUTATION,' ONE CLAIMED. 'I FELT WORRIED FOR MY SAFETY.'



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# ONE-TERM TERMINATOR?

California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger is fighting for his political life

**FOR A FOUR-TIME** Mr. Governor, it's the political equivalent of going second locked in your last. Since being elected the Republican governor of California in a surreal 2003 contest that included a porno writer, a porn actress, and former child actor Gary Coleman, Arnold Schwarzenegger has managed to plunge below President George W. Bush in the opinion polls of this largely Democratic state. It's quite a bewildering conspiracy for the former action-movie star, who only one year ago enjoyed the approval of two-thirds of Californians. So popular was the Austrian-born Schwarzenegger that Washington buzzed with talk of an "Arnold Amendment" to the federal constitution that would permit citizens from outside the United States to run for president. Now, with only slightly more than a third of Californians approving of his performance, he is running for his political life.

"These were the days, huh?" is still common and hailing Schwarzenegger routinely asked 500 supporters at a 1987-a-place luncheon in Anaheim this month. "When I was first elected, people thought I was a better politician than I was an actor. Now people say I am a better actor." Sporting a tailored suit and a bling-bling ring on each oversized hand, the 56-year-old declared that all he cares about is being a "good governor." But the remark only served to underscore the deep gulf between the rhetoric of campaigning and the reality of governing—which is where his fortunes have sunk.

Back in 2003, Hollywood Arnold announced he had to unseat Democratic incumbent Gray Davis in front of a national TV audience on *The Tonight Show* with Jay Leno. Last month, Sacramento Arnold avowed his intention to run for re-election in 2006 in front of a few hundred supporters at a most unglamorous two-half-hour meeting in San Diego—after an hour of polemic fielding questions on property taxes and the potential of extracting energy from carbonate. Police on horseback controlled hundreds of demonstrators outside the in-



His approval rate has dropped below Bush's. The campaign is riding low for such a critic.

vestigation-only event. "He said he wanted to work with the people, but he has very much changed his approach," said prosecutor

Scott Henshaw, a member of the California School Employees Association, one of a battalion of unions that accuse the governor of selling out social programs to big business.

Californians point to two reasons for Schwarzenegger's woes—and disastrous labour relations figures in both. First, there's the sheer difficulty of his agenda: restoring the finances of the world's seventh largest

economy, which was headed for bankruptcy when he took over. In 2003, the state had a deficit of US\$30 billion and the lowest

bond rating in the nation. Schwarzenegger pledged to fix that—without raising taxes. "I'm biggest money budget fan in the state," says John Pinsky, a professor of government at Claremont McKenna College in Los Angeles area. The governor's aggressive agenda of spending ran balanced the budget (with the help of more borrowing and creative accounting), and put him on a collision course

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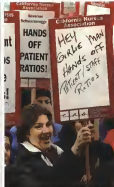
with public sector unions and the Democratic-dominated legislature. "It'd be in his last months the players will say, 'and Perry. That if he played it right, he'd not be an Assen.'" That's the second problem the governor himself. His makeover from screen hero to politician didn't fully capture the machine and gay movie legends. "What is it about Schwarzenegger that he just can't shut up?" mused Bob McElreath, a Democratic political strategist. "It's the arrogance that is doing him in."

Democrats and independent voters initially supported Schwarzenegger as a candidate who stood above partisan politics. His popularity peaked after he co-operated with Democratic lawmakers to craft a fiscal package last year. But since then, he has called Democrats "girly men," accused Native Americans of "ripping us off," called for "clanging the borders" with Mexico, and praised the prison border militias that even Bush has denounced as "enclaves."

Other fumbles have made him look inept. Public pressure forced him to back off reductions to spending on disabled children. He shelved a plan to save \$1.5 billion by allowing pets in shelters to be put down more quickly. He withdrew a bill overhauling public pensions because it contained an error that would have taken away pensions from the widows of firemen and police officers killed in duty.

But nothing quite matches his appearance in front of a conference of 10,000 women last December, including Oprah Winfrey and other Hollywood stars. It came just weeks after Schwarzenegger had delayed until 2008 legislation intended to improve nurse-to-patient ratios. As the audience watched, the governor's nurse aide, a banner protesting the move. Schwarzenegger quickly decided it was a good idea to channel the Terminator. Ignoring the "speed sessions," he told the audience: "They support me 'because I took their butt.' That set off a political earthquake. 'It was a turning point,'" said Russ Korn DeMoro, executive director of the California Nurses Association, which has since moved to the forefront of the "Stop Arnold" movement. Members have stalked the governor's events, and have spent tens of millions of dollars on ads that are widely credited with driving him down in the polls.

Republicans can only shake their heads. "That was not smart," sighed Dana



Nurses have moved to the forefront of the 'Stop Arnold' movement

McElreath, a retired teacher from Huntington Beach, of Schwarzenegger's newborn. Winning re-election, the party activist says, "is going to be very difficult for him." But McElreath says voters will want to make that his politics are necessary. "The bottom line is, if you don't have the money, you can't give it to people."

When supporters use common sense, though, errors like DeMoro deserve a far-reaching stigma of "flee market funds the criticism"—and a governor who has emerged as increasingly partisan, spending as the GOP national convention last year and campaigning for Bush in the swing state of Ohio. Californians now tell pollsters they no longer believe Schwarzenegger can work with Democrats. "He was viewed as a problem solver, and now he is viewed as part of the problem," said Mark Hollander, director of research at the Public Policy Institute of California, a non-partisan think tank.

Somebody Democrats are now doing what they can to destroy Schwarzenegger's image as a moderate or social realist. They

interviewed a bill the governor had already signed, which would allow donors' licenses to be used to underwrite civil programs. They also passed a bill allowing gay marriage—which the governor said he will veto. "That's what the gay marriage bill and the donor's license bill are all about," says Barry Feldman, a political analyst at the University of Southern California. "They are moving him to the right, putting him in a real position in a state that is among the bluest of the blue states."

Schwarzenegger's team has responded by launching a new political offensive. The governor has called a leading referendum for Nov. 5 in which voters will consider several ballot initiatives. One would cap state spending, and give the governor power to cut spending in a crisis. Another would require teachers to work five years, rather than the current two, to earn tenure in California. A third would transfer the power

to draw political district boundaries from politicians to a panel of retired judges.

Also on the ballot is an initiative that has further enraged opponents: it would force public sector unions to get union members before adding a member's dues for political contributions and campaigning. But overall, voters are showing little interest. "When we ask people what proposition interests them the most, they say none," says Feldman. Voters, voters question the multi-million-dollar election ploy.

Not all is lost. The governor's two declared Democratic opponents, Sen. Connie Brown and Assembly Rep. Agatha, are not well known. And Schwarzenegger's political strategy, Mike Murphy, broadly dismisses the public as "a magnet of what is going on behind you." "The polls we trust" show that two-thirds of Californians "thinks the big government-employee union bosses have too much power," he says. That and his "Sierra style fundraising" will be one third of a US\$50 million campaign between now and Nov. 5. "It will be crazy," predicts Murphy. Perhaps, that it may not be enough to guarantee that Schwarzenegger, like his most famous-movie character, will be back. ■

# THE LAST DICTATORSHIP

As an election approaches, will Europe's remaining Soviet bastion have its own Orange Revolution?

**A SHOWDOWN IS BREWING** in Europe's last dictatorship. The opening skirmishes of a looming battle were fought this summer, in back gardens and community halls in small Belarusian towns and villages. The country's broad coalition of parties opposed to President Alexander Lukashenko has been meeting to elect regional candidates, who will in turn select one presidential candidate to stand in a national election to be held next

year. Demonstrations in the country watched with renewed hope as popular uprisings against falsified elections toppled dictators in two other former Soviet republics—Lithuania and Georgia. They're hoping Belarus will be the next domino to fall. And Lukashenko fears they might be right.

The protesters' strategy, however, has no intention of making idle and wealthy thousands of his potential domestic wage-slaves and getting anything. So this summer he went out on his own grounds. But the more effective of Lukashenko's forces are not made up of battalions of police and armed soldiers—not yet, anyway. They are an army of bought and paid-for bureaucrats, businessmen and boring souls. Election meetings are broken up by government officials claiming there is a fire in the building, or a bomb, or that someone levels are too high. Delegates are subjected to random drug searches and are detained for hours in the hope that others in the meeting will drift away out of time or frustration.

"In trying such illegal tactics against us, the regime is not achieving its goals," says Alaksandr Jankulevich, 29, deputy chairman of the Belarusian Popular Front, a centre-right party and one of the largest opposition groups in the country. "More importantly, whenever the Russians have used repression

with the police. And they tell us 'Please understand. We don't like it, but we have to do it because we are in the service of the state.' The majority of them are not bad people, and they don't like to look like sexual deviants. It's a very unpleasant situation for them, too."

short hair cut, and his face is often set in a deadly earnest grimace. When I first see him, he's wearing a well-cut dark blue suit like a Western banker, but his hair looks with a brightness slung over his shoulder as if the wick is unsmoking modern. It would be a mistake, however, to underestimate Kennedy because of his youth. He is respected in Minsk by people opposed to Lenin's theory, and he has already taught the anatomy of U.S. President George W. Bush, who spoke with Justlovic in Washington earlier this year.

In the offices of the Bolivian Minister

**LUKASHENKO**  
has no intention  
of standing by and  
watching opposition  
forces gather strength

From photos of two revolutions like The Walls. The first set of black and white images depict scenes from the Prague Spring of 1968, when Soviet troops and tanks invaded Czechoslovakia and brutally suppressed a democratic reform movement that was pulling the country away from Soviet and Communist control. The second set of photos was taken in 1989 and chronicles the Velvet Revolution, when massive street protests in Czechoslovakia forced the Communists from power in a bloodless revolution.

Taken together, the images are the story of hope crushed and hope restored. It's a message Januszko believes is vital for the people of his country to hear. "These images are inspirational," he says. "People come and see photos of the police beating people, but they can also see what happens afterwards. The photos show that our situation is not final, our problems are temporary, and it is still possible to fight the system. The government looks strong and unbreakable. But these photos show it can collapse in days."



Protesters and police square-off at an April demonstration in Minsk marking the 15th anniversary of the Chernobyl accident; Lukashenko with his puppet-master, Putin, during a June visit to Moscow



Given the BJP's tie to the Congressists, have agreed to unite behind a single candidate. It is a remarkable commitment to co-optation that demonstrates how badly they want Lukashenko out of office. But most Belarusians agree that the election will be neither free nor fair, and that the results are a foregone conclusion: a victory for Lukashenko. The showdown, therefore, will not take place at the ballot box, but in the streets. The opposition is committed to taking part in

the election so that any subsequent process are legitimate, and they are already mobilizing for the day after the results are announced. "We are preparing to lead protest actions, which we hope will lead to the crushing of the Lukashenko regime," Janakiewicz says.

In this task, Janjetic and the country's official political parties will have support from a broad array of pro-democracy NGOs. Some are funded, directly or indirectly, by

Western governments, aid organizations and wealthy Americans such as George Soros, although most refuse to discuss this Promisemans among these groups is the pro-democracy youth movement Zube, which backed high-profile street protests and policies (distribution of condoms since 2000).

When I meet Vlad Robert, co-chairman of Zube, in a café across from the numerous headquarters of the Belarusian NGOs on Minsk's main drag, he is wearing a black baseball cap emblazoned with the letters FNL. We pick a deserted corner of the café, but soon a man appears alone at a nearby table: snub-nose, grey-clothes-in-line. "We find ourselves shut to you," he says, and the spoken doesn't follow as "You have to understand that 'Victory' is just a word—it means nothing in the Soviet Union," Sobolevsky. "On election day we struggle with not being."

Zubir grew out of the 2000 revolution in Serbia, when the Serbian youth movement Otpor led an uprising that overthrew Slobodan Milosevic. Both Roberts and Aliak made Anzochia's call. Zubir's press secretary, who was there and has since forged close links with similar pro-democracy youth movements in Georgia and Ukraine. Hundreds of Zubir members travelled to Ukraine in 2004 to support the Orange Revolution, which overturned a fraudulent election and brought Viktor Yushchenko to power.

Several, including Kubets and Aroschanskas, were arrested, and one of their friends had his arm broken. "They were afraid of this solidarity," Aroschanskas says. "It is impossible to talk about the situation in Belarusian isolation. When the revolution happened in Serbia, it was an inspiration to freedom fighters here. But the common said, well, it's not a post-Soviet case. Then when the revolution happened in Georgia, they said people are different in the Caucasus, they have a different mindset. But Ukraine is right next door. And when the revolution happened there, the communist that their mouth."

But there is racial difference in Belarus: many fear Lukashenko will not go quietly. If the town officer, he likely faces a future in jail, and there is a real possibility he will use violence to quell any demonstrations and hold on to power. Jankouski and the youthful members of *Opuka* are warned but optimistic. Jankouski hopes that the army and police would come over to the side of the protestors if they were ordered to open



Srs. Anatschchukova and the police will not shoot into a crowd for fear of hitting friends or relatives.

But most opposed to Lukashenko consider the showdown will be decided by numbers: if enough people side with the streets, a tipping point might be reached, and Lukashenko will have no choice but to back down. A small and armed demonstration, on the other hand, may lead to bloodshed. "We stand for non-violent action," says Strazhuk Shashchitskiy, 70, an impresario and brooding bear of a man, leader of the opposition Social Democratic Party, and a former leader of Belarus. "We know perfectly well that if there are 300,000 people in the streets, there will not be bloodshed; but if there are only 15,000 people, a lot of violence can happen. And that scares me."

**THE LAND** that is now Belarus has always been squarred between opposing empires, and does not say that has made its people both adaptable and passive. Belarus was absorbed into Russia in the late 18th century, and later found itself on the front lines of both

world wars. The Nazi invasion of 1941 was particularly savage, and by the time the Soviets liberated the country in 1944, 25 per cent of the population had been killed. Hundreds of villages were wiped out, and Minsk itself was reduced to rubble.

Belarus prospered economically under Soviet rule, but the Belarusian language and cultural identity were suppressed. These fears were kindled for a few years following independence in 1991. But when Lukashenko was elected president in 1994, he began digging the country back into the Soviet era. He banned from government buildings the red and white Belarusian flag, which flew following independence, and replaced it with one virtually identical to the old Soviet banner. He suppressed newspapers publishing in the Belarusian language and switched national independence day from July 27, the date of the country's declaration of sovereignty in 1991, to July 3, the day Soviet tanks rolled into Minsk in 1944.

More seriously, Lukashenko has tried to

stamp out all democratic opposition. He dissolved parliament in 1996 and extended his terms from five to seven years, after a rigged referendum gave him plans to increase his power the gloss of popular approval. His 2001 election victory was condemned by the West for its illegitimacy. Anyone opposing the

regime risks harassment, fines, imprisonment and almost certain unemployment. Some people are sentenced to years in prison or to "corrective labour." Others simply disappear. Newspapers are shut down or banned from government-controlled newsstands. State-approved media link those opposing the regime to dark for

signs. "If you watch Belarusian TV, you'll see a world of enemies," one woman tells me. "It is very effective propaganda."

A visitor to Belarus, however, will at first notice little of this. The streets of Minsk are spacious, average cities of even the odd sign here and there, and dotted with cafés and restaurants. There are almost no drinks or bag gas. Women are gorgeous, and everyone appears dressed well. Even on a national level

Genetic studies indicate Minsk still evokes as one before the Soviet Union's breakdown



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the economy appears to be bouncing along. But this, like much in Belarus, is something of a facade.

Russian President Vladimir Putin, afraid of losing yet another former Soviet state to the influence of the United States and the rest of the free world, props up the Belarusian economy with cheap energy exports and favorable trade arrangements. And no citizen had traveled in the country than a taxi driver taking me to my hotel cautioned me to not pay him with American dollars where a policeman might witness the transaction. "This is a country where everyone is afraid of everyone," he said.

Walking through Minsk today is like stepping back in time to an era before the Soviet Union imploded. Stores are named after Lenin, Marx and Engels. Soviet hammer and sickle emblems still adorn public buildings. And a statue of Lenin, powdered by voluntary soldiers, glows at passivity in the city center. "When my mother and father got married, they came here to lay flowers," says my translator, Elena, a recent graduate. "No one does that anymore." She pauses. "Well, maybe some old people still do."

**BUT IF STATUES** of Lenin have not been torn down, other monuments, similar ones, have been erected that some would have been possible under Soviet rule. Just down the road from KGB headquarters, the owners of the trendy London-closet have built an eclectic-minimalist model of White House, complete with a working big Ben. Here you can drink overpriced Earl Grey tea, accompanied by photos of Queen Elizabeth II. Spend enough time in places like this, among the city's studios and young artists, and you can convince yourself that revolution really is just around the corner.

But young people have always pushed for change, and critics can be deceptive. I decide I should talk to someone with a longer memory. And so we pay a visit to Yan Vrubel, a 69-year-old professor who has lived through most of the changes that have impacted Belarusian before the Second World War. "Come into my flat," he says. "I will show you how a Soviet scientist lives."

Vrubel leads us up the staircase of his tiny apartment building, known colloquially as a Khrushchevka, after Nikita Khrushchev, the Soviet dictator who succeeded Joseph Stalin and ordered the construction of thousands of equally little

properties. Inside, his apartment is small but tidy. Jars of pickled mushrooms and jars line the shelves. He pulls down three enormous bottles of homemade vodka from the table in front of us. It's about 9:30 in the morning. "I don't know what this stuff is—my wife leaves it," he says as he pours me a glass. "But my mother-in-law is 92 and my father-in-law is 92, and this stuff is why they're so healthy."

I drain my first glass.



Belarusian is well-expected by the opposition, and it's caught Bork's attention as well.

It means life death, with a lingering after-taste of hellfire. Feeling no winter, Vrubel pushes a plate of smoked fat toward me.

"Whoever you do, don't eat the skin," he says. "You'll get appendicitis." It's too late, and I tell him this.

"Oh. Well, I'm sure you'll be fine. More vodka!"

"Please."

We drink from silver tin bottles, "for good luck," and Vrubel takes each one when we are finished with it. "That way if someone comes in we can say we're drinking it," he explains with a smile.

**"THIS IS a country where everyone is afraid of everyone,"** one driver said as he warned me not to pay with U.S. dollars

In between the pickles and liquor, Vrubel talks about his life in Belarus. He lost six members of his immediate family during the Second World War, but the end of the conflict brought him called. An ardent Pole, Vrubel and his family were considered "enemies of the people" by Stalin and moved to the second class citizens. Things got better under Khrushchev, but not much. "All empires fall," he says when asked about the Soviet Union. "This is a law. I'm just glad this empire fell without blood."

Vrubel was happy to watch the democratic revolution unfold in neighboring Ukraine, but he thinks it is unlikely that something similar will happen here. His readers are mostly opposed to Lukashenko, but few will talk about it. A long history of occupation by outside powers has taught Belarusians to keep their dissent to themselves. His students don't protest the dictatorship, but they don't join Lukashenko's pro-government youth groups either. "It's a hidden resistance," he says. "Belarus won't follow the situation in Ukraine or Georgia. The Georgians are too headstrong, and the Ukrainians are too naive. We are very tolerant and very calm. We'll wait for someone else to do it for us."

Vrubel spoons some homemade jam onto a biscuit, takes a sip of tea, and continues. "Anyway, many people think it's already good enough here. There is no war and we have enough to eat and drink. And the fact that someone somewhere else has been better than us, well, is their lead their own lives. We have it pretty good."

**I WANT TO** talk to people outside Minsk. But first, on the outskirts of town, we stop at a small pine forest in Sanyary, where the bodies of up to 250,000 men and women executed by Stalin's NKVD (the precursor of the KGB) are buried. The bodies were first revealed by excavations carried out in 1988. But since coming to power, Lukashenko's government has covering up all research into the massacres, blaming the numbers on the Nazis or claiming the death toll was never more than 7,000. The mass graves have become a rallying point for Belarusians opposed to Lukashenko and his knowing to the country's Soviet past. Numerous rights were held, and today zones and rows of rough-made crosses, erected without government help or permission, are scattered among the trees. There is no official memorial.

We leave Sanyary and drive toward the

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scene of another slaughter. Belarus, like much of eastern and central Europe, suffered the ravages of both Communism and Nazism with hardly a break between the two. Kharyn is a village that in 1945 was burned to the ground by German soldiers. All of its inhabitants, save one man, were murdered. Today it is a haunting memorial to hundreds of similar villages razed by Germans during the war, and to the 2.2 million Belarusian civilians who were gassed by Nazi firing squads or shipped to their deaths in concentration camps.

A few kilometers outside Kharyn I meet Maria Vysotskaya, an 80-year-old woman with long black and gray hair wrapped in a headscarf, selling honey and blueberries by the side of the road. "We like him, we love him, we respect him, and he gives us our pen money," Vysotskaya says when asked about Lukashenko. "There are people in the cities who don't like him. But even the villages support him. This is my feeling. I don't know what's wrong with the people in the cities," she says, waving at the traffic coming past her roadside stand. "We have it good now. Look at all these cars. Young people these days want everything and don't want to work for it."

Vysotskaya says she comes from the village of Kopylov, near Kharyn. During the war the Germans murdered one person from each family in the village. The rest they took to Germany as slave laborers. "But they didn't take me," Vysotskaya says. "I was sick and no good for working. I had to go to Minsk and stayed there in very difficult conditions. Those who survived the slave labor now go on as compensation from Germany. But I don't get anything."

"Whenever I returned to her village after the war, everything was burned or looted. It was as if ghosts lived there," she says. "We are empty and hollow. People should remember. They can compare things now to the way they were back then. Now we have it good. For an old people, it's good now. This is because of Lukashenko and finally we're back home."

She seems happy and still Vysotskaya isn't from Canada. She arrived "by changing bus to Canada in the 1980s," she says. "We thought he was going to America, but it was Canada. So at a war it was the same—just the kind of senseless sense." Vysotskaya's grandfather wanted to take her mother and the infant Vysotskaya with him, but they stayed behind. Now, a lifetime later, Vysotskaya



At Kamyshy, rough crosses commemorate 700,000 people executed by Stalin's NKVD

always asks me to write down the name of her grandfather's village—Zhytomyr.

"Maybe someone in Canada will read this and find me," she says.

**BACK IN MINSK.** I met with more opposition politicians, journalists and members of NGOs trying to bring democracy to Belarus. They aren't positive men and women waiting for someone else to liberate their country. They are realistic. Many seem used, they are all weary. They lived and work in haggard offices and apartments. They are winced and harassed. And they know that if their revolution is not successful, they have little hope of leading normal lives or finding normal work under Lukashenko's regime.

Their offices are adorned with the famous

**THE ACTIVISTS**  
are resolute. Many seem  
tired. And although the  
word is often misused,  
they are all brave.

Belarusian flag—and with banners and mementos from past democratic revolutions that peacefully toppled dictatorships. Several walls display the Polish Solidarity slogan, written in its famous blood-red letters. The Solidarity movement began an inspiring uprising. Communism in Europe that many in Belarus feel must end with an end-of-victory here.

Flags of the European Union and NATO are also prevalent. Belarusian democrats are looking west, to Europe and the United States. And most are partial to America's clear denunciation of Lukashenko's dictatorship over its attempt at "engagement" proffered by some western European countries such as Germany. "I believe it is important to have an accurate assessment," says Andrii Sushchuk of the pro-

democracy NGO Charter '97. "Whatever there is a balancing of positions, I can tell you that we have no expression." But outside help usually does so much. "We are not expecting foreigners to bring us freedom," Andrii Jurevich says. "We have the hand work to do ourselves. But at a decisive moment, Western help will be a decisive one."

The hardest work remains to be done by ordinary Belarusians who want Lukashenko gone but haven't yet decided to risk making up to him. And it is a tremendous risk. Those who take a public stand against Lukashenko's oppressive employment, admission to university—essentially their entire lives. The sad truth is that repression works. Lukashenko knows this.

My informant, Elena, began protesting against Lukashenko during a decade ago, but has since drifted away from the opposition movement. "Although I was doing what I wanted going to these demonstrations," she says. "I really thought things would change in the country. But I've been 10 years now. I first got involved and nothing has changed. So I started thinking about my own education. It's not a longer-term Belarusian democratic movement, but she still believes in it. She says she hasn't given up. "If there is a revolution, if people do take to the streets, I'll be there too." Hope, it seems, is hard to stamp out. **W**

## CTV'S GLOBAL CONQUEST

Ivan Fecan made CTV champion of the Canadian dial. But can he stay on top?

**THIS WEEK,** ABC will premiere a new series called *Commander in Chief*, touted as the next big White House drama after *The West Wing*. Early reviews have been mixed. But until last week, no Canadian network was going to air the show, even though CTV paid big bucks in the spring to buy an American rights. Only the series' early buzz convinced network honcho Ivan Fecan that he should clear space in his hip-pocket schedule for the pilot. Fecan was willing to pay for a program he wasn't planning to run, just to make sure his cash made at Global Television didn't go there: hence on TV.

"That may seem extreme, but that's how nasty Canada's TV war have become the



media are cutthroat, the spoils are huge. And Fecan, considered early in his career to be Canada's preeminent wunderkind, has emerged as a master strategist. Over the past few years, CTV has transformed Global to become the most watched network in the country. By last spring, it had the most prime-time viewers, and an astounding 18 of the 34 top-rated shows. Thanks to a roster that included the Academy Awards and TV's most popular series, CTV finished No. 1 in the summer, fall, winter and spring seasons.

While he's clearly got reason to celebrate, Fecan is now at a spot that is precarious as it is enviable. Even a master must know that unless CTV can maintain its holding pattern—and stay at the peak—there's nowhere to go but down. This is an industry where the stakes are increasingly high.

American programming—what makes up the bulk of commercial prime time in Canada—runs more than ever. Meanwhile,



**Fecan** built CTV's success through the risk of taking the air

because there is so much choice, audience numbers per individual show are in decline. As well, smaller broadcasters, such as CTV 2, are letting into what was, until recently, the domain of Global and CTV. Even History Television, one of many tiny specialty channels now crowding the dial, carries Over There, a new drama about the war in Iraq by superstar producer Steven Bochco. And, sending a chill down broadcasters' spines everywhere, the Internet is fast encroaching on TV's precious space. A poll released in

August shows that young Canadians now spend more time on the Internet than they do watching television. All of that makes the behind-the-scenes ratings race so heated in the best TV shows, if not more.

As noted in CTV's standing a while now, it was only a few years ago that Global was on top. In the mid '90s, with programs like *Friends*, *Prison* and *Seinfeld*, Global had 15 of the top 20 shows, and prime-time ratings. But then a litigant to stories and dramas, and as those water-cooler conversation pieces slowly died off, Global failed to replace them with equally hot shows. For the past few years, Global has successfully not been in CTV's top general up the ratings song. Fecan, who declined to speak to *Maclean's* for this article, made no early move when he transformed a disparate collection of stations into a coordinated national network. But his real ace is Suzanne Royce, regarded as the designer for her unique ability to pick winners out of the U.S. lineup. Royce pulled such hits as *CSI*, *Law & Order*, *ER* and later *The Sopranos* and *Desperate Housewives*—shows that have driven CTV's phenomenal performance. Not just anyone, Royce, whom advisors describe as a "wandering former CBC type," has also been lucky.

For example, last year's new show about plane-crash survivors stranded on a tropical island, was widely expected to bomb, recalls Ellen Burstyn, who is Royce's cousin. But CTV picked it up, and it's CTV's success. "Everybody was saying, 'This is the single-act thing we've ever seen,'" Burstyn says. "I don't know one programmer—around around the world—who liked it. People hated it." But CTV picked it up as part of a package deal with ABC. Lo and behold, *Lost* became a smash hit, and an Emmy award winner.

The network has amassed such a repertoire of TV hits that there's barely time to list them all. But rather than use as a personal totem, they fall into the hands of the ratings. Even will bump popular shows into dead time slots—often a sacrifice of major ad revenue in the process—or even pre-empting shows on the shelf. In 1993, Fecan bought the rights to

Ally McBeal, only to park it. "We bought the show because we didn't want anyone else to have it," Fecan told the *Financial Post* in 1998. It looked like Fecan had similar plans for *Canemaster in Chief* until CTV dropped it into its line-up late last week.

While Fecan's switch-on-early strategy helped push up CTV's ratings, he was also herded a league of phony by Global. In 2002, it lured away from CTV the host of the homegrown late-night talk show, *Open Mike With Mike Bullard*, a show Fecan had been eager to drop but couldn't just cancel because CTV had presented it with such fanfare. Once Global got it, Fecan quickly imprisoned Jon Stewart's *Daily Show*, a highly popular late-night show from Comedy Central, opposite Bullard, at a fraction

of the cost. Bullard's show on Global lasted only seven months. Around the same time, Global's then hit-like *Feeder and Friends* were scrapped, up. And it missed the crowd back to drama, relying for much of last season on instant reality shows. Last fall, Douglas Hoover, the guy who kicked Global's earlier hit, and a handful of other VPs, took the fall and were replaced by executives from U.S. networks. This corporate-disarray meant no one was focused on programming until February, when Barbara Williams was hired.

Even if CTV is winning the war, Fecan's and Beyer's time is stronger than ever, observes Stephen Stohn, an entertainment lawyer and executive producer of CTV's *Degrassi: The Next Generation*. "There's absolutely no resting on their laurels," Stohn says. "They

see this year as a take-no-prisoners year. They are buying shows as if they are No. 2."

And with good reason. It seems Global may be slowly pulling its act together. In spite of falling television revenues, CanWest upped the network's programming budget by more than 10 per cent this year, making the use of investments. The increased programming budget was "higher than we had expected," writes analyst Katherine Dalen of Merrill Lynch. The extra money gives Williams something to work with, and the results are starting to show. Global recently struck a deal with Entertainment Tonight to produce a Canadian version of the celebrity newsmagazine. Not only will the new program rival CTV's highly profitable *ET! Daily*, it will piggyback on ET's marquee name value and huge marketing machinery.

Williams also is betting on new shows such as *Prince of Peace*, a drama about two brothers who beat out of jail. And Global's hoping America's most famous housewrecking diva, Martha Stewart, will be "a good thing" for ratings and ad dollars in host of her own new *Apprentice*. But Williams admits there's a lot of back in plodding winning TV programs. "You don't really know what's going to break through. It's a crapshoot."

Fecan also got to keep an eye on CHUM TV. Late last year, CHUM scooped up Craig Media, giving it stations in Edmonton, Calgary and Winnipeg and bringing it closer to being a national broadcaster. That may be why Fecan is rumored not to be looking for the loss of MTV Canada, the CTV, each move would bring in a slew of younger women and new advertisers, and would create stiff competition

for CHUM's lucrative MuchMusic channel. Still, to launch a new MTV Canada would require a new CRTC-issued license, which is no slam dunk.

But that's the kind of risk that has put Fecan where he is today. A year and a half ago he promised he would widen his lead over his rivals, and he delivered. In the past three years, CTV has seen its prime-time audience grow to 1.4 million viewers, up 50 per cent from 901,000 in 2001-2002. With auction-like chat, it's hardly a surprise that no one in the TV business is inclined to bet against him. But it's worth noting that last May, as Fecan presented CTV's good news results and introduced its hopefuls for this season, he made no such promise again. ■



Global's new reality shows and *Feeder and Friends* will challenge CTV's dominance.



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## ASIA'S FINE BALANCE

**AKIHIRO IKEDA'S** sweeping election victory is good news for the Japanese economy and point down for Japanese media

standing, the U.S. dollar's value would be far lower, U.S. long-term interest rates would be far higher, and U.S. home prices would be in big trouble. Given the influence of the U.S. market on Canadian rates, the impact on interest rates and house prices here would be quite similar. How this situation developed is a tale worth telling.

was the force for restructuring the nation's sclerotic politics and economy. The LDP, which has ruled Japan for all but 11 months

senior Douglas MacArthur imposed democracy on the conquered nation, has been as liberal and democratic as the Holy Roman Empire was holy and Roman. Through government's control of the US\$3-billion postal savings system, the government—who have chosen LDP politicians here—have had a seemingly businesslike wall of funds to buy the necessary military

The Bank of Japan responded to the malaise with the monetary equivalent of all-out war—unprecedented rate hikes (which should, according to economic theory, lead to excessive credit expansion, which should trigger inflation). But not when your banking system is still in purgatory for as long during the near-bankrupt lending binge of the 1980s, and has been sitting back as its loan portfolio for 90 straight months. It was headline news last month that the bank had actually increased their loan portfolio.

Although Japan's shipping has been in vogue for years, there is one important way that Japan has been providing powerful stimulus to the global economy. *Kaitan*, now seen as the ultimate in open poling, has been, since 2001, one of the paravers in what could be called the world's biggest book movement.

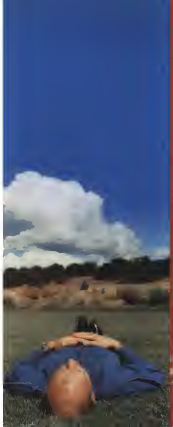
Seven years ago this month, the global financial system was in crisis. Russia had defaulted on its debt, and Long-Term Capital Management, a huge hedge fund, was collapsing. Canadiana may recall that this episode had featured the cachet of having among its founders not one, but two Nobel Prize-winning economists, including Canadian born Myron Scholes. It would turn out that their investment expertise was no better than that of most economists, who are, in general, poor portfolio managers.

While the Federal Reserve was trying to

Kakumai concludes  
notes that the case  
reflects Japan's  
voluntary policies.

Figure out how to manage the Long Term Capital crisis, a syndicate of 300 global banks was completing its restructuring of Indonesia's foreign corporate debts. Like most of standard

Asia, Indonesia had been devastated by the collapse of the emerging nations' economies that had begun the day Hong Kong was reclaimed by China. The only country that



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In the ranks of SportNet Magazine, the question of the worlds of NASCAR and the National Hockey League.

Despite their differences, there's a fascinating story. The NHL wants to promote not only the success of NASCAR, but also the progress by which it attained that success. Like NASCAR, the NHL has to find ways to make the sport more exciting and grow the relationship between the fans and the athletes.

In the case of NASCAR, it's Jeff Pappas, a wealthy entrepreneur, for beyond the U.S. Drug South, where there are roughly 10 million fans in the country, resulting in a record TV audience.

What about the new season? As Steve Speranza says, there's a strong sense of hope that the NHL is on the brink of something special, with new rules, the arrival of former Sidney Crosby and a salary cap that has opened talent across all 30 teams.

But nothing counts. In large part because it's now about execution and, in larger part, to borrow the NASCAR word, because in the past the NHL has found a way to crash and burn.

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## SPORTSNET MAGAZINE

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As soon as the light's off, it'll be waving the Chicago flag after scoring a three-goal shutout, but goalie Martin Brodeur has agreed to Chicago for the 2005-2006 season along with defensemen and Wayne Gretzky. It's a really nice way to end the Black Hawks.

# GREAT EXPECTATIONS

WITH A MORE LEVEL FINANCIAL PLAYING FIELD, TEAMS EVENLY STOCKED WITH NEW-FOUND TALENT, IMPROVED RULES TO OPEN UP THE GAME, AND A COMMITMENT TO THEIR ENFORCEMENT, THE NHL PROMISES TO DELIVER HIGH-QUALITY HOCKEY FOR THE FIRST TIME IN YEARS. WE'LL SEE...

**E**ach time the Zamboni leaves the ice, there is a moment when the surface is hickmah-free, overiding under the arena lights. A moment when past hockey sins are forgotten, if not forgiven, and all things are possible.

So it is with the new National Hockey League.

In the wake of a miserably destructive lockout that cost hockey fans an entire season and needed what little combi-

ny the game has across the United States, the NHL is on the brink of a miraculous resurgence.

In the space of a few weeks, beginning with the dramatic draft lottery that saw the Pittsburgh Penguins earn the right to

draft Sidney Crosby with the first pick in the 2005 draft, followed by an unprecedented reshuffling of NHL talent, battles over the 18-month lockout has

all but evaporated. In its place, the promise of a new, wider-open, more competitive, more fan-friendly NHL that could take the game to unprecedented heights.



EDMONTON'S GUN

With Michael Peca (above, left) and Oles Knyazev (below) joining the Oilers, the Oilers' offense is about to light it.

Whether league officials and owners who insisted on the lockout because they couldn't control their moribund spreading anomalies could have predicted this is whether they're slapping away for the ride is moot. The fact remains there are positive strides and an unprecedented burst in virtually every NHL city from Phoenix, where a guy named Wayne Gretzky will coach, to Anaheim, which lured Scott Niedermayer, the big line agent in the market, to Nashville, where Paul Kariya will try to re-ignite himself as one of the top players in the game.

Everywhere - with the possible exception of Washington - there are headless storms and debate over the possibilities of a playoff berth or even a run at the Stanley Cup.

Nashville is this exception, higher than in Canada. Three years ago, the pivotal issue was whether all six Canadian franchises could successfully expect to survive. Now, with a new economic landscape, it's a legitimate question to ask which

Canadian franchise will be the first to win the Stanley Cup.

Fans and players in the West have already begun to adjust to the prospect of a new-generation Battle of Alberta now that Chris Pronger and Michael Peca have joined the Oilers. The Flames, surprise leaders in 2004, enter the season as Western Conference favorites having added Tony Amonte, Roman Horak and Dwayne McDermott to their roster. In the East, the Penguins are the team to watch, with a roster of stars including Sidney Crosby, Evgeni Malkin and Marc-Andre Fleury.

For those who like their hockey with a little dose of irony, the Canadian team facing the greatest challenge just happens to be the last at Toronto Maple Leafs.

The only Canadian franchise immune to the economic pressures that have struck the other five franchises is the Leafs. Suddenly found themselves in the toughest position of being outbid by newly Florida for the services of former players Joe Mullen and Gary Roberts.

It might be pulling for fans who believe the game has no

interest anywhere where a new shared tent is being erected, but the NHL will now feature its most level playing field ever, one in which all 30 teams will compete more or less as equals. The greatest difference separating teams will now be based on hockey, not on the size of the market. For the first time in years, the competition will be rewarded and the failures in short-order punished.

As for the NHL, it's a lot of people not going to be rewarded. And that's a good thing.

So if we're entering a hockey season, let's what is it that gives us pause? What is this nagging thought of doubt we feel?

Perhaps it's that we've heard enough of this before the promises of making the game back from the margins and plodding and returning it to the center of the

The full-go of the season are relevant only if everyone buys into the league's new efforts to shake back all forms of obstruction. Judging by the NHL recently produced by the NHL, suffering how much work and interference will be ended, it will mean a sea change in attitude throughout the league.

The league's new efforts to shake back all forms of obstruction. Judging by the NHL recently produced by the NHL, suffering how much work and interference will be ended, it will mean a sea change in attitude throughout the league.

It's why many shippers believe the lockout is doomed as the inevitable complaints will be and officials are of being overwhelmed by angry coaches, players and GMs.

Simply put, this initiative cannot fail. If the game can end on a 30-minute lockout and the loss of an entire season, it

can endure re-learning the game the way it was meant to be played in the first place.

If it doesn't, all the free agents and new players who entered in all the arenas across the NHL, to have their backs won't be worth a pile of Zamboni shafts come playoff time.

The margin for error is slender not just in terms of the season product but across the landscape. As one top-level coach confided, "If we make a mistake here, we're sunk." And that is the sobering truth.

Already there have been setbacks. The NHL went until the afternoon that Gordie announced he was going to coach Phoenix to announce it was re-signing Todd Bertuzzi. It was a head-on collision to both the controversial in the shadow of the positive, and a rebuke of the league's moribund franchise of a new moment to back down in the media spotlight.



FORMER FAN CAT

The Maple Leafs' coach Barry Trotz (above) was a former NHL player who played for the Leafs in 1980.

In a related incident, Colorado GM Pierre Larocque signed free agent Brad May a player involved in the lead-up to Bertuzzi's attack on former Anaheim's Steve Moseley. The Anaheim have failed to commit to re-signing Moseley when and if he's healthy enough to return to play. By signing May, Larocque has reinforced the notion that many NHL owners and managers are both unthinking and arrogant.

Although the \$36-million salary cap should keep the overall economic picture in focus,

there's already evidence that new owners and managers have learned little from the past. Chicago's widely expected to hire Mike Keenan, who coached the Blackhawks in 1980, to coach the Blackhawks in 2004.

And to the ice is ready, glitzy, and we can hear the players clapping up the walkway from the dressing rooms. All the possibilities.

Scott Burnside is a senior writer for Sports Illustrated. His last article, on Jason and Lanny Ray, appeared in the issue of May 25, 2003.



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**CAN THE TORONTO BLUE  
JAYS PUT THE PROMISE  
OF THIS SEASON INTO  
PRACTICE NEXT YEAR?**

# PAY DAY



Until then, the Blue Jays and their growing legion of fans believed they were in the midst of a post-series chase reminiscent of a gritty group of over-achievers who refused to roll over even though the ace of their staff and arguably the best pitcher in the league — Roy Halladay — had been out since his

But in the process the joys, who married just 62 years ago

last these only recognizable one in Carlos Delgado. In 2004, because more unified than they'd been in years. They also found a following, creating buzz in a city that seemed to have tossed them aside.

Maybe the facts didn't make sense to the boys, but they could have been even better. Shortly after Delgado cost another team the search award after a 56 million and signed with the Florida Marlins, Del Rios showed up. Records

The absence of Ray Kallala (Jag) didn't hurt the Jays' win against the New York Yankees, thanks to the efforts of the Jays' bullpen. In fact, the Jays' bullpen was the best in the league, with a 2.10 ERA. The Jays' bullpen was the best in the league, with a 2.10 ERA.





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LIFE | BY KEN MACQUEEN

## TINY TIRES TIME

Parking spots just for Smart cars? Are half-price car washes next?

**THE SUBCOMPACT CITY** of Duncans, B.C., adheres to "the world's largest hockey stick"—and 12 of the world's smallest parking spots.

The hockey stick—62.4 ft long—dances with an entire wall of the local community center. You'd think a city of almost 5,000, blessed with such an unusual piece of lumber, would have nothing else to grow, but Duncan is a forward-looking place. It has seen the future, and it is the Smart car—an automobile so abbreviated it would take 13 of them lined bumper-to-bumper just to carry the world's longest hockey stick. In early September, the Smart car inspired Duncan to create what easily is Canada's first mini parking spaces. They are three meters long, just big enough for a Smart or transportation device of similar size—motorcycle, scooter, or maybe a pair of those four-wheeled running shoes worn by teenage boys.

Other municipalities, including Victoria and Vancouver, may follow Duncan's lead. Smart car owners may roll lightly upon the earth, but they are an assertive lot. As if filling up far under \$10 isn't reward enough, they're starting up their own tactic to claim that their discount 2.5-meter-long vehicle warrants cheaper parking and discount ferry rates. B.C. Ferries is studying the idea, with mutual enthusiasm. "What's next, half price at the car wash?"

In Duncan, the two spots were inspired by two acts of civil disobedience by local doctor Iwan Jarvis and his wife, Anne, who laid claim to one of the first Smart cars to reach Vancouver Island. Anne parked their car nose-to-nose in a parallel parking spot in Victoria, the way Smart cars are often parked in crowded European cities. She was celebrated. The inspired them to do the same in Duncan. It's got a stick, too, but also the synergy of any concept, which was exploring creative ways to get more vehicles and shoppers into Duncan's downtown.

Anne piled city councillor Steven Jackson with her idea, and the two viewed the downtown-looking for wanted spaces to convert into additional parking. The result was a dozen mini-spots. They are marked by yellow curbs decorated with blue stripes, and the warning: "motor cars or motorcycles only." This caused some consternation, concedes Jackson, "basically from guys with big trucks wondering why there aren't big-truck parking spaces." On the other hand, Duncan gained a lot of media exposure and the undying affection of Smart owners, where "her [Duncan's] fabulous," embraced Anne Jarvis, after returning home on a September afternoon from a failed attempt to try the city's first newly painted stall. "These were those of us in Smart cars, all wanting the same spot," she says, laughing.



Duncan, B.C., city councillor Jackson, (above) the new mini spots.

The French-made Smart, a division of Mercedes-Benz, was built for the jam-packed streets of urban Europe and Asia. The three-cylinder diesel has done surprisingly well in Canada, even below the latest spike in fuel prices. Since 3,600 have been sold in the year since the first vehicles were imported last October, for outstanding proportions, says

Jefrene Cass, director of corporate communications and public affairs for Mercedes-Benz Canada. Many smart buyers sit on waiting lists while their cars are built and accommodated in Humboldt, France. From there, they are rolled into padded envelopes and flattened overnight to the customer's house.

Just kidding. They're shipped by boat, of course. Size jokes are the bane of Smart drivers, and a topic of discussion on Internet sites devoted to their whereabouts. So, for a time, was the tale set of Smart car tipping—a variation on the rural practice of tipping sleeping cattle. One Calgary owner awakened to find his extremely damaged "smartie" on its side in the driveway. "I am so f---ing mad right now I could spit bullets," he reported. The unsavory topic has now been declared off limits by the site moderator.

Internet discussion has once untied an ancient subject: Should one wear or keep the helm when greeting fellow Smart drivers? Opinion is divided. Is it possible to make love to a Smart car? ("The trick is to fold the passenger side seat down," advises one potential charismatic car. "Then you are able to use the trunk space for your head.") As for fuel consumption, don't get them started. ■

FORGET SARS,  
WEST NILE, EBOLA  
AND AVIAN FLU

# THE REAL EPIDEMIC IS FEAR

We keep to  
ourselves for one  
cataclysmic threat  
after another.  
Our perceived lack  
of safety has become  
an obsession, writes  
LIANNE GEORGE.

**GREGORY FIELDS** is a pharmaceutical maverick. He calls his company, Canadian Drug Delivery, based in Neenah, W. Va., an "online pharmacy intermediary," which means, if you're looking for the best price on medicines—anything from *Aspirin* to *Zalof*—Fields will comb the globe to find it and have it shipped to your home. In some cases, you won't even need a prescription. Suddenly, business has exploded, and it's all thanks to one pill—an antacid called *Tamiflu* that's selling like candy.

*Tamiflu* was recently found to be the only drug effective in treating H5N1, the deadly

strain of avian influenza that has been spreading fear throughout Southeast Asia since late 2003, and might be heading west. The virus has already infected 115 humans, killing 59—with 16 more people under observation in a Jakarta hospital—and ravaged commercial poultry flocks in China, Vietnam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Thailand, Hong Kong and Russia. The world's leading flu experts, including the World Health Organization, are warning that this could be the Big One, an apocalyptic nightmare to rival the most overwrought 1960s WHO movie. This month, Ottawa will host a major international conference to discuss preparations. "We're on a collision course to panic," said Dr. Michael Osterholm, director for the Center of Infectious Disease Research and Policy at the University of Minnesota, who prophesies death toll upwards of 500 million, making the Spanish flu epidemic of 1918 look like a rusty scuffle. In a recent issue of *Foreign Policy* journal, he outlined the major plot points: "The reality of a coming

pandemic cannot be avoided. If an influenza pandemic strike today, borders would close, the global economy would shut down, international vaccine supplies and health care systems would be overwhelmed—and panic would reign."

IT'S A tremendous amount of hysteria for something that hasn't even happened—and may never happen, if past experience is any indication. For decades, indeed, North Americans have been bracing for one cataclysmic threat after another—superbugs, bioterrorist attacks, apocalyptic plagues. There have been real threats (SARS, West Nile, mad cow, SARS, anthrax), but in each case, the amount of hysteria surrounding the threat has been exponentially larger than the threat itself.

So fear has become the epidemic—and safety, or the perceived lack of it, or obsession. Perhaps what's most unsettling is that the definition of what it means to be safe keeps changing. Six years ago, being

self-reliant, building a subterranean bunker and stocking up on bottled water and duct tape in the event the Y2K bug should destroy the world's computers and bring about

global anarchy. More recently, safety has meant clashing oneself with DEET to ward off West Nile-induced mosquitoes, wearing off-balance, floating paper masks on subways to avoid contracting SARS, and stocking up on Capex, on the off chance some mouse should unleash and run in our midst.

This means, a recent listing on an online supply of *Tamiflu*. Experts are saying that when—not if—an outbreak occurs, there will be a critical global shortage of the drug. Governments and multinational corporations are frantically stockpiling it. Ordinary North Americans and Europeans, fearing there won't be enough left for them and their families in the crucial moments—and lacking faith in public institutions to protect them—have taken to creating makeshift flu kluges and building their own anticipatory armies.

For Fields, who sells *Tamiflu* prescriptions free, it's instant filling orders, 20 per cent of which are coming from Canadians at a rate of 13,000 boxes (or 1,586,077,500 worth) per week. "It's unbelievable," he says. "Most people buy it for their whole family. Consultants, doctors, professors—anyone, you name it." In his office, he's set aside about 80 boxes for personal use, minus, of course, his. One course might not be enough. "Better safe than sorry."

THERE'S NO denying that even the is generally scary. At the latest end-of-days hypothetical, the virus has all the makings of a media blockbuster: It's strange and new and it can mutate quickly into unpredictable, even more-threatening forms. Thanks to respiratory beds and global travel, it has the potential to blanket the world quickly. Worst of all, there is no known vaccine for the virus, which accompanies a host of symptoms including a high fever, sudden respiratory complications, extreme body aches, multiple organ failure and often death in 72 hours or less.

Eight years ago, the H5N1 strain infected its first 18 people in Hong Kong, six of whom died. This was the first time the virus was found to have been transmitted directly from bird to human. Later, it mutated in Cambodia, Thailand, Vietnam and Indonesia, resulting in more human deaths and the destruction of millions of

Thousands of Canadians are clamoring for their doctors to get their own private stash of *Tamiflu*.

checkers. Scientists have been debating ever since the likelihood that it will mutate into a form that is readily transmissible between humans—a scenario that would produce one of the most deadly viruses humanity has ever seen. Flu epidemics operate in cycles, ebbing and waning well outside the next one. In the U.S., scientists are working on developing a preventative vaccine, but since no one can predict when a mutant virus would look like, no sure-fire vaccine can be developed until another flu actually occurs. London-based virologist John Oxford, one of the world's leading flu experts, has likened it to "a tsunami rushing toward us."

FOR NOW, though, it all remains hypothetical. In this new book, *The Politics of Fear*, U.S. sociologist Frank Furedi suggests that the more recent society—in terms of health, wealth and political stability—the more likely it is to succumb to theoretical anxieties. In turn, the more abstract we become with worrying, says, "the more anxious we become," he says, "because



anxiety becomes this drive that you never achieve. Even if you move from the house, you can always slip in the bathtub." In life, there is much to fear (even fear

itself), and a certain amount of paranoia is necessary for survival; since it compels us to implement reasonable precautions, like condoms and bicycle helmets. But what

Furedi is describing is a culture plagued by free-floating anxiety, exacerbated by the dramatic and devastating news events of our time: terrorism, hurricanes, 9/11. It's not that we're more afraid now than we used to be, it's that the things we fear are less tangible, and the fear itself more diffuse and promiscuous. It will affix itself to global terrorism or earthquakes one day, killer bees the next. And when people feel a sense of general insecurity, says York University sociology professor David Carver, their natural response is to

try to identify the source, to give the anxiety a face and a name, and exert whatever measures of control they can over it. "I feel threatened by vague, abstract forces—that's terrifying," he says. "When you've got an enemy, it's a matter how powerful he is, once he's been identified, you can get him on the right of your gaze."

Hence most life—the latest research we can take precautions against in our efforts to feel protected.

HELPING to accelerate herd-like massia is a growing band of the bloggers—actual agitators and amateur epidemiologists who

see each new flu report or update as a call to arms, and use their blogs as a medium to inflame and scare the daylight out of each other. "I got on the pandemic flu beat in 1997 when H5N1 was first identified," says Virginia-based Melanie Manson, a 53-year-old writer and the proprietor of the flu blog Just a Bump on the Bump. Manson feels the mainstream media isn't doing enough to warn the masses, and she often says we can't trust our public institutions to care us (just look at what happened in New Orleans). "What we're trying to do," Manson declares, "is save lives."

The amount of effort that goes into the blogging is astronomical: one of Manson's regular posters is a woman named Canada Star, a nurse from Burlington, Ont., who has constructed a 24-page scenario that details what her city of 112,000 would look like during a pandemic. "Flu bloggers have developed a kind of online community," says Crawford Wilson, a 64-year-old communications teacher from Vancouver who started out blogging about SARS, but has since switched his focus to H5N1. "But now, after watching what's happened in New Orleans, I began bring my lip about 'what if' and 'what's more.'" he says. "What if we get something like a hurricane and we get within that how do we cope with it then?"

WHETHER people realize it or not, flu also serves a real, practical function—it motivates us and informs our political and consumer decisions in all sorts of ways. (2006, for instance, generated \$190 billion for the global economy—a boon for computer manufacturers everywhere.) But the more powerful flu becomes as a public enemy, the more advocacy groups, politicians, charities, media and companies like Canadian Drug Delivery—"flu entrepreneurs," as Furedi calls them—try to manipulate it to produce a desired outcome. "There are great stories of experts saying that even this is a problem, but then they say no," says Furedi. "If you look at the research that's published, it's always 'Research says that such-and-such will happen if you survive,' and attached to that is usually a demand for more research money. That's how the fear market is created."

Toxicity, or oscurance, the marketplace for fear: for testing itself, it is produced by the virus pharmaceutical firm Hoffmann-La Roche Ltd. and belongs to a group of medicines called neurolept analgesics, which attack the flu virus and prevent it from spreading inside the body. The problem is, it's a complex drug and a single dose takes 12 months to produce. Currently, it's only available in a single plant in Sweden. And, but the company has plans to expand

## SOME OF FEAR'S RECENT FACES

**ALBERTA BIRCHES:** die recently in a fall involving a bird, while some 200 others got sick after tumbling from or on steps. There are many more common ways to leave this life than succumbing to rare, exotic illnesses. So why do they terrify people so much?

Are they scary? Yes. Are you going to die from one? Statistically unlikely.

**SARS:** The previously unknown respiratory syndrome started in China in November 2002 and hit the world in March of the following year, spreading to 38 countries within weeks. Outside of Asia, Toronto was particularly hard hit. Its hospitals were made off-limits to most visitors, and more than 15,000 people were quarantined. As the number of cases climbed, fear took hold—restaurants emptied and conventions were cancelled. Tourists were non-existent. The World Health Organization imposed an advisory against non-essential travel to Toronto. So did the U.S. In Canada, 251 people were diagnosed and 43 of them (17 per cent) died, compared with a worldwide rate of 8.96 per cent and 774 deaths (9.6 per cent). SARS hasn't resurfaced in the general population.

**WEST NILE VIRUS:** When SARS hit Toronto, *60 Minutes* producer Shell Weisner was relocated to the Whimpey, just in time for mosquito season

and West Nile. Spread by those pesky insects, it had arrived on the continent in 1999, and in Canada in 2002. Heavily publicized campaigns warned of the virus, cities sprayed for mosquitoes, and bug spray flew off the shelves. Yet only about one of 260 infected people got serious complications, which include permanent brain damage and death. In 2003, there were 1,478 reported cases and 12 deaths in Canada. Cooler temperatures in 2004 cut the stats to 35 cases and 3 deaths. So far there have been 328 cases this year, with eight deaths.

**EBOLA AND MARBURG HEMORRHAGIC FEVERS:** with horrific symptoms and death rates reaching beyond 90 per cent, the viral diseases are terrifying. In Angola, 329 people have died as Marburg outbreak since last year, with only 10 patients surviving. Marburg was first detected in a Guinean lab handling monkeys in 1971, while Ebola hit the world in 1976. Since 1996, the average annual number of cases for both fevers has been just 135. Part of the fascination with the diseases is that their natural reservoirs have never



West Nile: very high death rate



Anthrax: even if it kills you

been in nature for decades. Humans usually get it from infected animals and recover if treated promptly with antibiotics. Western cases have been extremely rare since Louis Pasteur came up with an oral vaccine in 1881. Today the worry is weaponized anthrax. In 2001, spores accidentally released from a Soviet lab killed 66. And then there was the 2001 panic in the U.S. caused by a series of anthrax-laced letters. Pigeons, slow to react to the initial cases, went into overdrive when Sen. Tom Daschle received a letter. Soon 10,000 people were on antibiotics as postal facilities and other buildings closed for decontamination. In the end, five people died and another 17 fell ill. In Canada, during a public health emergency, the feds tried to override Bayer's patent on the drug Cipro by getting a generic maker to quickly

develop Bactrim. But pop up in remote parts of Africa, like guinea and then, with their high fatality rates, the rest.

**ANTHRAX:** It has been around for centuries, and it's tough to ignore. Can it be used as a weapon? Yes. It's deadly to humans, animals and even if treated promptly with antibiotics. Western cases have been extremely rare since Louis Pasteur came up with an oral vaccine in 1881. Today the worry is weaponized anthrax. In 2001, spores accidentally released from a Soviet lab killed 66. And then there was the 2001 panic in the U.S. caused by a series of anthrax-laced letters. Pigeons, slow to react to the initial cases, went into overdrive when Sen. Tom Daschle received a letter. Soon 10,000 people were on antibiotics as postal facilities and other buildings closed for decontamination. In the end, five people died and another 17 fell ill. In Canada, during a public health emergency, the feds tried to override Bayer's patent on the drug Cipro by getting a generic maker to quickly

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CRUFTS: slow death



## KILLER BEE-ELZEBUB

"Members by the millions—was they're all for me!" So declared the 19th-century bee flick, the *beewee*. Ever since these assassins of the insect world made their brook from a fertilized bee 46 years ago, North America has been bracing for thousands of deaths by stinging. In the early 1980s, there was widespread panic: The U.S. government, panicked, among other self-defense plans, built a 15-m high wall along its Mexican border to keep the threat at bay, but when the insects did finally invade Texas in 1985, not a whole lot happened. There have been only 15 deaths since then, and the fear has faded.

Bee? Bess, where are you now?

Exactly where scientists predicted they would be, says bee expert Mark Winston of UC's Davis Center University, who calls killer (officially, "*trichotus*") bees the most successful invasive species the world has ever seen. They are now the dominant bee species in the southern United States, and when they attack humans, they are indeed dangerous, but these invaders are very rare. The real threat has always been more to the beekeeping industry rather than to people, but the scare was blown to get it proprietors by officials worried about seeming ineffectual. "There was no human bite on Earth that would have stopped the spread," says Winston, who sat in on U.S. meetings on a grad student, as experience he calls "a real eye-opener." The expensive plans would never have succeeded, and besides, the threat wasn't big enough to warrant them. He compares the reaction to the current handling of the swine-flu problem in Mexico, saying "the government is probably aware that spraying with disinfectants doesn't work, but they're killed off because people demand it."

So what are the lessons here? "This story reminds us that we shouldn't invest too much in health problems that look more frightening than they actually are," says Winston. "The resources that are going into preventing things like West Nile might be better directed to everyday issues that actually affect a lot of people."

KARIN MARLEY

infections. "We've doubled our capacity this year," says Paul Brown of Roche Canada, "and as we go into next year, it will increase again. We'll have more production sites coming on stream. But the problem is, whether we talk about vaccines or Tamiflu, none of those will be available in supply to meet the surge of demand that one would see in a pandemic situation."

Swamy breeds an every man for himself ethos—and all Canadian notions of equity and not jumping the queue go flying out the window. Not surprisingly, Roche takes the official position that people would be wise to get their flu shots. "We think it makes good sense for people," says Brown. "If they want to have a few packs of Tamiflu in their cabinet for themselves in the event of a pandemic, then there's a very solid logic for doing so."

In Canada, however, people can't rely on their doctors to give it to them for pre-emptive use because Tamiflu is only licensed by Health Canada for use as a treatment of the infection that has already set in. So, in recent months, dozens of websites like Canadian Drug Delivery have sprung up to offer Tamiflu by various means. ("What happens when thousands contract the virus at the same time?" the website asks. "Will you be able to visit the doctor in time? Will there be enough Tamiflu in stock?")

Customers place their orders on Fields' website. He and his team then have one of their licensed affiliate pharmacies—located around the globe where prescriptions for Tamiflu aren't required for international export—fill the orders and ship them directly to the customers. "We've had direct orders," he says. "They were making a new check-out the times and they needed a glimpse to get people in, so they ordered 100 boxes to give out as freebies."

Because Fields never actually touches the pharmaceutical, he doesn't need to be certified by any professional board. Technically, what he's doing doesn't violate any laws—he's simply exploiting a loophole. "It's not illegal," says Andy Wroblek, president of the Canadian International Pharmacy Association. "But in any case, this is completely unethical. It's breaking all the laws of pharmacy and medicine."

Still, demand is so strong that only one of Canadian Drug Delivery's three distributors—this one out of Switzerland—has any stock left. "It's a chess game," says Fields. "We

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have enough stock for the next two to three months, but we're running around the world trying to find more suppliers." A few months ago, the company was selling Tamiflu with a 2009 expiry date, but that's all sold out. Now they're down to 2008.

Roseenthal points out that hoarding is a drag that is as precious supply globally poses a bit of a dilemma. It may very well be imposed in medicine cabinets until we'll be paid its expiry date—while people in high-risk parts of the world scramble to get their hands on a single pill. Killy, for one, has declined to secure any for himself. "Maybe that's because I grew up in the U.S. during the Cold War, when people were building fallout shelters and buying guns so they could shoot their neighbors if they tried to break in when the bomb started falling," he says. "My response then was, that's a really screwed way to go." Moreover, there is no guarantee

China, the relatively high case-fatality rate (even though most of the people who died were elderly and already had compromised immune systems), the speed of its global spread (within weeks it was in 28 countries, including Canada), and public uncertainty about our ability to control it.

In Toronto in 2003, hospitals began turning visitors away. Thousands of people were quarantined. As participants, restaurants and hotels closed, and concerts were called off. The World Health Organization issued an advisory against non-essential travel to Toronto. As a result, the IOM study concluded, this alone likely exacerbated the economic blow that, in Canada, included hundreds of millions of dollars in lost tourism revenues. "The total number of people killed by SARS in Canada was fewer than 90," says Roseenthal, "and in fact more people were actually killed by the flu that

'World War'—today we have started to anticipate, plan for and counter viruses. The Public Health Agency of Canada has even drafted the Canadian Pandemic Influenza Plan—which maps out how Canada will prepare for and respond to a flu pandemic. It includes establishing the infrastructure for pandemic vaccine production, managing a real-time alert system, and establishing quarantine services at international airports in all major centres. Also, bit by bit, Canada is creating a national survival stockpile (like the process in order as a time-zone first-serve basis). The government has currently secured about 26 million doses of Tamiflu—enough to treat roughly eight per cent of the population—and has plans to eventually have enough to treat 20 to 25 per cent. (Animals will be administered based on likelihood of falling ill—health care and essential-service workers first, healthy children after that.)

## 'THERE ARE REAL THREATS, BUT THEY DON'T HAVE TO FOLLOW A DISASTER MOVIE SCRIPT'

Tamiflu will remain effective against a mutated strain of avian flu. "I think it's unwise [to stockpile], in that it's a draw on a commodity that we don't even know will work," says Dr. Carolyn Bennett, Canada's minister of public health. "It worries me that people think having it should make them feel better."

**GENERALLY** speaking, when it comes to disaster prep, people don't tend to reflect in probabilistic. That's because we tend to over-focus the scenarios that are the most speculative and unlikely, rather than the most likely. "SARS was a good example," says Jeffrey Roseenthal, a University of Toronto statistics professor and the author of *Struck by Lightning: The Curious World of Probabilities*. In a recent analysis of the SARS outbreak of 2003, the Washington-based National Academy of Sciences Institute of Medicine (IOM) indicated that the public panic was dramatically heightened by the reversals of the disease, which originated in

some year than were killed by SARS, and yet nobody cancelled their travel plans or wore a mask because of anthrax."

Perhaps what we can learn from SARS in perspective. "There are very real threats, but they don't always have to follow a Hollywood disaster movie script," says Furch. "Flu epidemics do occur. It's part of our human experience. We've survived it before and we're in a much better position to deal with it now than we ever before. We have ways to contain these things that would've been unthinkable even 10 years ago."

The fact of the matter is, we've been awaiting an (another) H5N1 outbreak for several years, and even in China, a country of 1.3 billion people, an epidemic has not materialized. We have no way of knowing whether the virus will mutate into a form that will spread easily among humans. And even if it does—unlike the 1918 situation when Spanish flu spread quickly and quietly in the disease-infused trenches of the First

World War—today we have started to anticipate, plan for and counter viruses. The likelihood is that we'll survive. "It's really interesting—the impact of fear," says Dr. David Butler-Jones, Canada's chief public health officer. "Something's going to go on. We're all going to die. It's a balance of preparation and getting on with life. The things that really make a difference are people being eating well, being active, having friends and family. It's the basic stuff that our grandparents could have told us."

In a recent essay, Furch wondered if maybe the distinct feature of our times is not to match the calamities of fear, but the cultivation of vulnerability. "And if vulnerability is the defining feature of the human condition," he concluded, "we are quite entitled to fear everything." Sometimes, it seems, we already do.

With Karin Maury and Dorela Havelandova

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Life | BY COR HOWARD

# BOLLYWOOD BOOGIE

Indian film dancing is the latest fitness trend to captivate the mainstream

**IN CONTRAST** to the high-octane, hyper-speed world *Shamir Durrani* occupies, his North Vancouver home is an oasis of calm—all white carpet and bright sunlight. In fact, probably the only trace of his glamorous life in India are the racks of DVDs showcasing his work in Bollywood cinema, including *Dil To Pagal Hai*, the 1997 movie that cemented his reputation as the country's top choreographer of Bollywood dance.

In the world of Bollywood film—conspired of colorful, campy musical numbers in which couples playfully chase each other over mountain ranges, fight their passions together, but never, ever kiss—dance is crucial, a steroid in far sex. Durrani is often credited with infusing new life into the Bollywood style. He has spent most of his career trying to give it up with a Western twist, combining Indian litigations with belly dancing and styles like jazz, modern and hip-hop. “I need to be so sloppy,” he says, noting that the dancers were often large women with long hair. “Now they are thin and look professional.”

Durrani is determined to bring the Bollywood dance craze to mainstream Canada. Two years ago, he opened *Shamir's Indo Just Dance Movement*, with locations in Calgary, Toronto and Vancouver. The classes, set to hit-good music and taught by a strict grip of instruction extracted from Durrani's past-gangs dance structure in India, have already attracted around 500 regular participants. “People find it new and different,” he says. “It's fun. It's fitness.”

In many ways, Durrani's timing couldn't be better. There has of late been an insatiable appetite for all things Indian—food, film, jewelry, food and fitness trends like yoga. Westerners are quick to take what's new in every trendy store window this summer, or the sparkling sloopers on sale at Aldo and Old Navy. Even the fierce hat june of the annual Fashion Cares event—a trendy Toronto source to promote



What drives the dancers is that they can really let go of their inhibitions.

ALDO sweet news—was “Bollywood Cowboy.” Models sported puffed-up hair and a little bit of a shimmy.

Thanks to the success of Bollywood movie stars such as Madhuban Shah and Ashwini Rai (named by Durrani) who are causing over 100,000 English-language films, including *Mohabbat Wala* and *Kaho* and *Pragathi*, Bollywood-style movies have become increasingly popular outside the Indian community. And one of the major forces is a rising people to the genre is the dancing. “What drives them is that Bollywood is dancing in a different than Western style,” says Achin McDonald, founder of *Mac's* in Los Angeles, whose Bollywood classes attract over 1000 from his dancers to university kids. “The students can really let go of their inhibitions.”

On a recent Saturday afternoon, roughly 30 of us—mostly Indo-Canadian teens in baggy sweatpants and older women in high-heeled sandals—gather to experience one of Durrani's classes in a community center in Burnaby, B.C. Everyone knows

the music except one: though the Bombay Rockers, a Danish duo who sing in both Hindi and English. As madrasa hip-hop and prelude their own head shaking and hip jiggling. It's just trying to keep up. It's not that the moves are difficult, it's just that there are so many to learn, and they change so quickly. When the time comes to perform the “ganga wala”—an up-and-down gesture with one hand—the whole class erupts in self-conscious hysterics. The teacher struggles to maintain order. After the class, the instructors explain their interest. “It's stressful,” says 15-year-old Zainab Durrani. “You want to be there in the mood and dance with them.”

A young married couple explains they know of Durrani from years spent living in Bombay. “It's a good workout,” says Parvati Mittani. “And most people can do the moves and look good.” Her husband, Zameer Durrani, is the only man in the class. He jokes that his wife forced him into it.

But inside the classroom, he is shaking his hips, throwing his head back and laughing with the girls. “He has no control,” his wife whispers.





## THE STARS AT TWILIGHT

For professional athletes, knowing when to quit is the toughest task of all

**THIS SEASON**, baseball ended another chapter in its book of legends. It also wrote another, sadder story. But that one was largely ignored, out of deference for its talent, and because pro sports favours stories of achievement over failure.

The story we all know is that of Roger Clemens—the famed cleanup pitcher, who said goodbye to baseball two years ago and then decided, almost on a whim, to give the game one more shot. This year, Clemens tore through the major leagues. With just a few weeks

left in the season, he earned an astonishing 1.78 earned run average. He turned 43 in August, and yet is arguably more dominant now than when he won his first Cy Young award 19 years ago.

To watch him throw, you can almost believe that age is irrelevant, as long as one positive line item. But we can't quite believe it, because we know the other story of this baseball season, the one not nearly so widely told: the story of Roger Henderson.

On Labour Day weekend, while Clemens was on the mound against the St. Louis Cardinals, Henderson was playing in front of 1,004 fans in Long Beach, Calif., in the championship of the Golden Baseball League—the most distant of professional baseball's minor leagues, where players make about US\$1,000 a month and some come

to the park straight from their day jobs.

That weekend, the all-three major league leader in stolen bases, was in the outfield for the Los Angeles Angels, facing against the young lights of his own prodigious talent. Against opponents who couldn't quite crack the lowest minor of baseball's minor league system, the 46-year-old Henderson could do no better than a .270 batting average and the homer rate in 79 games.

Clemens and Henderson are opposite sides of the same argument—the one that rids in the mind of every athlete eventually.

When to quit? When to admit that whatever it was—that thing that transformed you from a player into a legend—a general isn't coming back? There are no easy answers, and freaks of

nature like Clemens only make it harder for the rest like Henderson, lingering in the game, desperate for one last great hit.

It takes pride and optimism to dedicate your life to sports, and quitting requires a cool of realism and self-doubt that players rarely emotionally suppose to be effective.

"I just want the same chance I had when I was 19 years old," Henderson told a reporter in August. "I just want to come to give me that chance. If I'm going to retire I want to take the uniform off my back." For those who watched in amazement as Henderson stole 1,446 bases over 25 seasons in the majors, his honesty was jarring. You'd rarely hear such a new admission from an athlete. He was no longer in control, and it was coming from up.

Perfection is a cruel word. But that's what Henderson had become: a hollow impersonation of his former self. It was tough not to feel sorry for him. And that's no way for a legend to end.

Lately, there have been a lot of athletes forced to face the twilight of their careers. Jack Nicklaus played his last round in

Clemens (left) and Henderson (right) are opposite sides of the same argument.

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The Masters this summer. A handful of NFLers—Mark Messer, Al Macchioni, Scott Steiner, Ron France—bring up their skates rather than face the grueling task of getting back in shape after more than a year of inactivity. Jerry Rice, 41, the all-time leader in receiving in the National Football League, said a sorry goodbye to the game last month when he couldn't earn a spot among the Denver Broncos' top three receivers.

But there's no shortage of others persevering, determined to get one more year, one more record, one more victory lap out of their game. Brent Hall, 41, is back with the Phoenix Coyotes. And after losing the 2002/03 season to reconstructive knee surgery, and hating his face shattered by a puck 15 years ago, 40-year-old Steve Yzerman decided to return to the Detroit Red Wings. The man who was once Detroit's most prolific and dangerous playmaker is expected to spend the year as a shuffling line, shadowing the men of opposing teams.

Their decisions weren't much of a surprise. It's the rare athlete that can resist the temptation of those elusive pleasures—1,000 games, 500 goals, one more championship, one last swirl of stardom. Everyone wants to "go out on top," but few do.

Rice has hit 101 in his final preseason, playing for the Boston Braves. While Yzerman got traded to the New York Mets when he was 41 and barely managed to hit .200, Guy Lafleur returned after three years of retirement for a last comeback with the New York Rangers. And boxing history saluted with former champion Hagler in his last year. Few who saw Muhammad Ali's devastating loss at the hands of Larry Holmes will ever forget it. Now history repeats it, self with Evander Holyfield, Mike Tyson, and Thomas "Hitman" Hearns, returning to the ring at the age of 46. It's hard to tell if Hearns is a mistake in progress, or merely a setback—like Gordie Howe, when he shut out one shot for the minor league Detroit Vipers in 1992, to become the first man to play pro hockey in six different decades.

Ask psychologists why sports stars cling so desperately to the spotlight and they'll tell you money and ego play a part. But the real motivation, they say, is a dark, cold fear that haunts almost all athletes. Lloyd Moseley, the former outfielder for the Texas Rangers, may have put it best in a 1996 interview with *Saturday Night* magazine: "Baseball was my God," he said. "The game

made me alive. It made my brain work. It kept me up at night working things out. [After retiring] it was as if everyone in the world had died... watching those guys on TV, there's a void so big, nothing can fill it."

Ted Barrye, a sports psychologist at San Jose State university, has helped hundreds of athletes face the depression and anxiety that comes with the end of their playing days. He says most go through a sort of "symbolic death" of themselves. Through the end level, they must push down every other aspect of

being, after their skills have faded. That reality has spread to other sports. With the era of expansion in hockey, baseball, football and basketball, merchandising and marketing are now as important as wins and losses. President, "big man" players can be valuable attractions for sub-performers, even if they can't produce victories. That point was clearly made when the crowds turned out to watch Michael Jordan's so-called Washington Wizards, even though Air Jordan was a distant memory.



Rice, the greatest receiver in NFL history, finally retired last month at age 41.

their identity. Their sport made them rich, made them famous, made them respected, even loved. So, in the twilight of that career, almost all athletes go through the classic stages of emotional turmoil: denial, anger, appeal to a higher power, depression, and finally acceptance. There with unrelenting seriousness struggle most. Barrye says Jerry Rice, the greatest football player ever, once confessed to his coach Mike Shanahan that he never wanted to see his achievements surpassed by the next generation. He spent his last three seasons scrambling for playing time with the Oakland Raiders, Seattle Seahawks and the Broncos, consumed by the aim of securing records that could never be broken. By chasing sporting immortality, he ended up looking all too human.

Increasingly, the economics of sport encourage players to hang on too long—the money that too many players use to keep fighting because, once they've established a name, they are a malleable commodity even

some may see nothing wrong with that. A player can get paid, why shouldn't he pay?

The answer lies in the nature of stardom, and the allure of sports: it's about being super-human. We're fascinated by athletes because they transcend the limits of mind and body that constrain the rest of us. It's like magic. And to watch someone grow old on the field is like hanging around after the show and seeing how they didn't really see the lady in half. It raises the wonder of what came before. When our heroes linger too long, they're revealed as being just like the rest of us—vain, greedy, insecure and scared. And that's the last thing we want them to be.

Cleaver is tempted. Eric coming back. If he's wise, he'll walk away now with an unblemished legacy and no regrets. As for Hershenson, he's bowed to call it quits one of these days. In a few years, he will take his place in baseball's Hall of Fame. His sixty-six accomplishments will be enshrined and no one will mention the San Diego Surf Devils. But it'll be hard to shake that memory of a leg, undergoing through last year, waiting for a call back to glory that never came. ■



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# FEARS OF SEX SELECTION

Ethical and accuracy concerns surround a gender-testing kit for mothers-to-be

**LESLEY TRIDER ADMITS** she's the cautious sort. Four months pregnant with her first child, the 29-year-old Montreal woman was dying to know if she was having a boy or a girl. But she'd resigned herself to not knowing until her due date in March because in New Brunswick, she says, doctors strictly reveal the sex of a fetus unless it's medically necessary. So when Trider learned of the Baby Gender Mentor, an at-home gender-testing kit that, in effect, promised to let her open her present early, she didn't hesitate. "I wanted to find out really badly so I could get things ready," says Trider. "I just wanted to have a little control

over some part of my pregnancy." Trider ordered the US\$25 kit through an Illinois-based website called pregnancycenter.com, dabbed three drops of finger-prick blood on a test strip, and counted the package—along with a US\$150 prepaying fee—off to Aca-Gen, Dohak in Lowell, Mass. Two days later, Trider logged onto Aca-Gen's website and read the news: Congratulations, it's a boy.

Aca-Gen screened Trider's dried blood samples for fetal DNA, looking for the presence of a Y chromosome, which would be in another's womb only if she were carrying a male fetus. The lab claims the test is not a 99.9-per-cent accurate and can identify the sex of a fetus as early as five weeks into a pregnancy, well before most want to know. The company has a home base in June when NBC's *The Today Show* featured the product—sales have since skyrocketed. "We've sold thousands," says Sherry Beretta, president of the pregnancy-center.com, which is the sole retailer of the Baby Gender Mentor. "And just this week, we got three more orders from Canadian customers."

While fetal gender testing is not new, never before has it been this easy, affordable and accessible to Canadians, which is precisely what medical ethicists find disturbing. "My concerns are that patients will use that information to select gender," says Dr. Peter Schein, deputy registrar and ethics commissioner for the B.C. College of Physicians and Surgeons. "In other words, there will seek an alter-



Photo: Aca-Gen

tation if the child is not of the gender they prefer." Concern over the new test has prompted George Abbot, vice president of the B.C. health minister, to petition his federal counterpart to ban the Baby Gender Mentor from coming into Canada. "To make a kit that is not regulated by the province or by the federal government, which has not been demonstrated to be safe or accurate by the provincial or federal governments, and then having potentially critical decisions on those tests is not, in our view, wise," Abbot told Maclean's.

Sex selection is a growing and potentially disabling problem in some countries in India and China, where male children are favoured over female children for various

economic, religious and cultural reasons, and selecting has contributed to a growing gender-ratio imbalance.

In Canada, the issue of gender selection is far more muted. Unlike in the U.S., it is illegal in Canada to undergo any procedure that would increase the likelihood of conceiving a child of a particular sex, either through an sperm-sorting technique or by testing an embryo before in-vitro fertilization. But the law deals more with ensuring a desired sex than prohibiting an undesired sex. In most provinces, expectant parents have to wait until the midway point in the pregnancy—between 16 and 24 weeks—before a doctor will confirm gender by ultrasound. And at that stage, it becomes medically precarious and therefore more difficult to convince a doctor to terminate a pregnancy.

Infants made, the test's accuracy has been called into question since NBC's popular morning show introduced it to millions. Aca-Gen says the accuracy is based on more than 70,000 test cases, but so far the company has not substantiated its claims by publishing its results for peer review. And recently, pregnancy websites that host discussion forums have been filled with posts from angry and desperate mothers who've received one result from Aca-Gen and the opposite result from their doctor.

Danielle Taylor, a 29-year-old mother of two from Princeton, Ky., is one. Taylor took the test in July and learned she was having her third boy. But when she went for her first ultrasound, she was told it "definitely" was a girl. Taylor took Aca-Gen's test a second time and again was told she was carrying a boy, and the lab sent the conflicting results eight months later. Taylor had a genetic disorder. "I was devastated," says Taylor who is due in late December. "I was sure there was something wrong with my baby." After three more ultrasounds—and many soothing words from her doctor—Taylor has come to terms with her anxiety. "I just wish I had never heard of the test."

It's health ministry is worried the test will lead to sex selection and abortions



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## TODAY'S CAREGIVER

AN EDUCATIONAL GUIDE FOR NAVIGATING THE MANY FACETS OF CAREGIVING

After gently her father into that dark night, Carole Roberts has been caring for her mother for over 13 years. And despite being one of three children, the job has been solely hers.

My father was diagnosed with cancer in February

1992 when he was 80," says Carole, who describes two major surgeries that couldn't stem the growth of tumors. "He didn't want any more surgery for six weeks my mother and I cared for him." Her mother did the day shift and Carole took over at night. "I don't know how I got through it, but I did." >>



Two years after her father's death, Carole's mother moved in. Now, she too is ill. "Last year," says Carole, "she was diagnosed with cancer of the blood and she's in the early stages of Alzheimer's."

Despite being frustrated by the health-care system, the media director from Beaverton, Ont., is determined to keep her mother at home. "The region can only provide two hours of homecare a week, so I've hired my own caregiver who is with my mother 12 hours a day while I work. I pay her privately for the three days I'm working."

Two hours per week hardly enough respite for anyone who has to face the job of caring for a relative 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year.

Like Carole's mom, about one million Canadians depend on a family member or friend to help them make it from one day to the next. According to Statistics Canada, one in five Canadians age 45 and over provides care to a senior. While 62% of these primary caregivers have been doing the job for at least three years, 20% have been providing it for more than 30 years.

Carole says the initial adjustment to having her mother as a living mate wasn't easy. "She took over my life, my household, my friends. She wanted to be in everything. I felt I couldn't lock the door to my own apartment in our duplex because I'd be locking her out. She always took that unlocked door as an open invitation."

Carole eventually sought professional help. "She was pushing my buttons. We were having a rocky relationship because we seemed to make small things into huge arguments. What I learned is that you can't get into arguments dealing with someone of my mother's age. I felt guilty when I wanted to go out for

Your parents need to be able to express their wants and make some of their own choices in order to feel in control.

dinner with my husband and she'd be upset because she wasn't going, too. My therapist stopped that guilt and gave me permission to have my own life."

### CAROLE'S TIPS

When you find yourself in the role of family caregiver, Carole Roberts suggests these strategies:

- Involve your relative in as many aspects of planning as possible
- Find out what help is available within your community so that you can get some relief and avoid burnout
- Maintain close contact with your relative's doctors—but don't take everything a doctor says as gospel
- Question the things doctors suggest. Decide for yourself if that's in your relatives' best interest at this stage of their lives
- Discuss end-of-life issues and preferences so you can honour your relative's wishes
- Don't try to force her to do things because you feel it's in her best interest. "I go along with my mother's moods and how she feels on a day-by-day basis. If she doesn't feel like eating, I don't try to convince her. I just give her more supplements. I give her ice cream instead of soup. I try to make her forget she's not hungry."



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Carole says it takes a team to make it work for her mother. Her husband is "a gem," her sisters a disappointment. "I'm watching my mother die and I'm trying to do it as well as I can. I need help." She says she has a great specialist while she's constantly on guard against poor advice from her family doctor.

"There are always tests to be done, even though at this stage there's nothing more they can do to help her, so you have to educate yourself," she says. And you have to be an advocate. "My family doctor wanted me to arrange for the transportation of my landlady mother so that she could get her flu shot." Carole put her foot down and insisted on a home-given shot.

Carole obtained a caseworker through her specialist's referral to community care in her region. "The caseworker comes and discusses what your needs are and develops a team of people," she says. A nurse also comes in once a week to check her mom's vital signs, while another comes once a month for blood work and other tests. A physiotherapist evaluates and supplies her mother's equipment needs.

Despite the fact that it isn't an easy life, Carole is determined to keep her mother at home to the end. She sees it as a matter of trust.

"I wouldn't put my mother into hospital unless I couldn't manage her. I wouldn't put her in a home because I don't like the way they are run. I'll do everything in my power to keep her home."

#### IT'S TIME TO TALK

Imagine your child coming to you to say, "Mom, Dad, I don't think you're doing such a hot job of taking care of yourself anymore."

It would be pretty tough to hear. Unimaginable, even. So when the time comes to tell a relative the bad news, expect some resistance. They may object to the idea of having strangers in their home. They may hate the thought of spending money they feel they should be saving for the future.

Whatever barrier they throw up, your first step will be to help them determine and prioritize their needs, and then find resources. Never mind the angry words and accusations your mom or dad may throw at you. That's part of their fear in watching reality change.

And be prepared for lots and lots of questions. They need to be able to express their wants and make some of their own choices in order to feel in control.

## RECOGNIZING THE SIGNS



*It may be time for you to step in if your relative:*

- doesn't change clothes or get dressed in the morning
- has noticeable body odour and is unkempt in appearance
- has lost five kg or more and clothes seem too big
- has very dry hands, feet and arms, or cracked lips, which might indicate dehydration
- has little or spoiled food in the fridge
- complains of shortness of breath on stairs or after bathing and dressing
- stumbles or falls or needs help getting out of a chair
- forgets about taking medicines
- doesn't answer the phone or doorbell, declines social invitations, or stops attending church or community activities
- misplaces valuables or complains things are lost or "have been stolen"
- has unpaid bills or notices about services being shut off
- becomes lost on familiar routes

## CAREGIVERS' COSTS

Caregiving is expensive. Surveys find that 40% of primary caregivers pay out-of-pocket expenses of between \$100 and \$300 a month.

But caregiving doesn't just affect your budget in terms of how much you need to spend. It can also take a whack at your income. Some 25% of caregivers say their caregiving responsibilities have affected their job performance. Another 25% have had to quit work, retire or change jobs. While the government has acknowledged the impact on our wallets, the steps taken have been small.

#### COMPASSIONATE CARE BENEFIT

In 2004, Employment Insurance started providing up to six weeks of compassionate care benefits for employees who take time off to care for gravely ill family members with a significant risk of death.

within 26 weeks (six months). You can get up to 55% of your average insured earnings to a maximum of \$403 per week following a two-week waiting period. However, the benefit is taxable and deductions are taken off the top.

#### TAX CREDIT FOR CAREGIVERS

Claim the caregiver amount if you provide in-home care for parents or grandparents who live with you and are at least 65 before the end of the tax year. For 2004, the maximum credit amount was \$3,784, which results in a federal tax reduction of up to \$605.

The credit amount is reduced dollar for dollar when the dependant's net income exceeds \$12,921, and is fully phased at \$16,705. You can also claim the caregiver amount if you're caring for family members between the ages of 18 and 65 who are dependant due to mental or physical infirmity.

## TAKING CARE OF THE MONEY

When a relative's physical and mental health deteriorates, caregivers often need to step in and get involved in their financial affairs.

### 1 Find out where they bank and where their investments are held, along with the names of their financial advisors.

Remember, you don't need to know what's in the will, just where the will is. "When getting involved, don't take over," says Leah Weiss, Financial Planner with Desjardins Financial Security. "We cannot push our relatives into family investment vehicles that appeal to us. If they feel comfortable in a plain GIC, that's okay as long as we know where it is."

### 2 Make sure your care-receivers execute a will and powers of attorney. This allows them to name a trusted representative to be in control of their financial and medical affairs. Even if you have joint ownership of assets such as a home with your relative, you won't

be able to make changes until someone is appointed to represent their interests.

### 3 Manage the cash flow. "Arrange for automatic payment of expenses such as utility and insurance bills and for direct deposit of pension and benefit cheques," says Weiss. She also suggests you set up a joint account with telephone or online banking privileges so you can quickly check to oversee what's going on in the account. Be on the lookout for overdrafts.

### 4 Get tax-smart. Many health and age-related expenses can be claimed. Find out which items can be claimed only if prescribed by a medical practitioner such as a doctor, dentist or naturopath. For information, visit [www.cra-arc.gc.ca/tax/tm/individuals](http://www.cra-arc.gc.ca/tax/tm/individuals)

## THE LONG-TERM SOLUTION

By 2010, 60% of people over 50 will have a living parent, so it's a good bet that you and at least one parent will be retired at the same time.

So, how do you deal with the financial crunch of caring for your loved ones just when your income has stagnated? You might want to consider arming yourself with some long-term care (LTC) insurance. LTC provides coverage for people with a prolonged physical illness, disability or cognitive disorder (such as Alzheimer's disease) who are no longer able to function independently. This can include care at a nursing home, help at home or care at an assisted living facility such as an adult daycare centre.

Without insurance, these services can hit your wallet hard. "A year's stay in a nursing home averages around \$36,000," says Leah Weiss, Financial Planner with Desjardins Financial Security. "In-home nursing care visits three times a week, two hours a visit, will run to about \$9,500 a year." LTC is meant to defray these costs to avoid depleting your savings.

Many policies will not allow the benefits to be used to pay a natural caregiver such as a spouse child or close relative—benefits can only be used for professional services. Others, such as Desjardins Financial Security, will compensate a natural caregiver who must take off time from work.

Qualification for benefits is based on an inability to independently perform various activities of daily living (known as ADLs) including bathing, eating

## WHAT IS A POWER OF ATTORNEY?



A power of attorney (POA) is a legal document in which you give another person the authority to act on your behalf. A financial POA can be limited to deal only with certain assets or over a certain time period, or it can broadly give your representative total power to deal with all your property.

A personal care POA lets your representative make medical decisions for you if you can't speak for yourself. It may state exactly what type of treatment you want to receive or it may leave those decisions to your proxy.

POAs are regulated by provincial laws, which are not uniform across Canada.

## LTC provides coverage for people with a prolonged physical illness, disability or cognitive disorder

dressing, toileting, transferring (moving in or out of a chair, wheelchair or bed) and continence. Watch the rules for the payout of benefits. "Most companies will not allow the benefits to be used to pay a natural caregiver (related to the care-receiver)." There are companies like Desjardins Financial Security that will not penalize a natural caregiver," says Weiss. Policies specify an "elimination period" of up to 100 days during which time you must pay the cost of care out of your own pocket. Choosing

a policy with a zero-day elimination period will cost the most.

LTC insurance is less expensive the younger and healthier you are. Weiss warns that "if you have an impairment, you likely won't get coverage for your lifetime." Assuming you even get coverage, you'll have to make do with benefits that last somewhere between two and five years. So buy LTC for yourself (or make sure your parents buy coverage) sooner rather than later.

## WHAT GOOD IS CHEMOTHERAPY IF MY WIFE REFUSES TO TAKE IT?

Withholding someone you love from the horrific side effects of chemotherapy was devastating. At one point, it got so bad she wanted to refuse the treatment. You appreciate anything that can make it easier to get through.

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## CAREGIVER BURNOUT

According to the Health Canada caregiver profile, 70% of primary caregivers say that providing care is stressful. Of those, 77% say caregiving creates emotional difficulties for them.

If you feel that you can no longer cope or that your own health is deteriorating, you may be suffering from caregiver burnout. Try this test:

- Do you forget to take time for yourself?
- Have you given up hobbies or regular activities?
- Do you see less of family and friends?
- Do you often feel tired?
- Are you getting sick more often?
- Are you gaining or losing weight unintentionally?
- Are you experiencing back pain or headaches?
- Do you have outbursts of anger or tears?
- Are you worried about having enough money to pay for caregiving and other needs?
- Do you feel you don't have the knowledge or experience to provide proper care?

If you said "yes" or "maybe" to more than two of these questions, it's time to ask for help.

Linda O'Neil, public education consultant with the Ottawa branch of the Canadian Mental Health Association, says that most people don't realize how stressful caregiving is. "There is so much wear and tear—guilt, anger, frustration. Most people don't recognize that all these feelings are normal. They are not signs of personal failure."

## LIVING LESSONS

"I will forever cherish the last days of my mother's life," says Patrick Desbiens. "When she passed away, I felt her presence all around me, accompanied by a great sense of peace, sadness and joy."

The transition from caregiver to bereaved is sometimes tragic, sometimes a relief. But the time to help a loved one through those final days can be a gift.

A GlaxoSmithKline employee, Desbiens was among the first to make use of GSK's compassionate care leave when his mother was diagnosed with terminal stomach cancer. GSK established the program in 2001, when it became the first Canadian company to offer up to 13 weeks of paid leave to care

## TO AVOID BURNOUT:



1. Get as much information as you can about your care recipient's condition. Not knowing what's going on is stressful.

2. Reduce your sense of isolation. Find people to talk to: friends, family or a small group.

3. Ask for help and delegate; don't forget about family service centres, the public health nurse and your corporate human resources department or employee assistance program.

4. Strive for balance. You can't do everything and you shouldn't feel guilty about it.

for critically ill family members. "My entire team and my manager told me 'Take the time you need and be with her. Nothing is more important than that,'" he says. "My mother was very concerned about having someone around her someone that could advocate on her behalf."

The compassionate care program follows earlier strides by GSK in advancing the cause of caregivers. In 1996, GSK created the GlaxoSmithKline Foundation and its Living Lessons project. Developed in partnership with Canadian Hospice Palliative Care Association (CHPCA), Living Lessons is an innovative resource designed to ensure quality-of-life for those near death.

# Help *Boost* the Fight Against Cancer

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The time to help a loved one through those final days can be a gift.

"It started out to address the educational and informational needs for [people involved in health crises], whether they were a patient or caregiver, family member or health-care professional," says Karen Chow, GSK's manager of community partnerships and philanthropy. "Now it's starting to evolve to facilitate a change in policy."

Living Lessons addresses the fact that, in spite of the fact that about 160,000 Canadians require hospice palliative care each year, relatively few people are aware of what it really involves.

CHPCA's executive director Sharon Baxter says quick access to services is the key. "If you have a good home care program and a good compassionate care program, people think they can take their loved ones home," says Baxter. "But if you don't have access to a doctor at two in the morning, it's back to an acute-care bed."

## WHAT'S NEXT FOR CAREGIVERS

### ACTIVISM IS LIKELY TO DETERMINE THE FUTURE

If you're between the ages of 45 and 65, the chances of your needing care or being a caregiver over the next decade are pretty high.

Unfortunately, despite the efforts of corporations such as GlaxoSmithKline and organizations like the Canadian Caregiver Coalition and the VON, there is no national home-care or community care program in Canada. And despite the fact that boomers have been powerful advocates on many fronts, when it comes to long-term health care, voices have been weak.

As a result, while caregivers save public coffers \$5 billion annually, support programs are minimal and financial aid virtually non-existent.

But it's not just about money. Linda Lyons, Acting Executive Director of the Canadian Caregiver Coalition, believes that caregivers need recognition for their role more than anything else, not just from governments but also from service providers. "Services are often defined by the care recipient, but the caregiver may need formal support too."

Lyons would like to see caregiving follow the model implemented in palliative care, where the whole system "looks at the patient and family as a unit of care." She also believes employers, co-workers and communities have to develop an understanding of what it means to be a caregiver and offer support.

After recognition? "Respite," says Lyons. "A break. A time out. A relief." Often, respite services aren't offering what caregivers want. From senior daycare to overnight stays away from home, if the respite doesn't fit the caregiver's agenda, it doesn't help. "Caregivers want someone to come into the house, since it can be disruptive and confusing for their care-recipient to go someplace else. And if caregivers can't go away with confidence, then they aren't going to have that relief."

Tony Ianno, Minister of State for Families and Caregivers, says help is on the way on the financial front. He cites the commitment already made to increasing the Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS) by 7%, which he says turns into \$700 million a year. "That, by itself, isn't going to make a huge difference," Ianno admits, "but if you add it to what we're trying to do with our housing initiatives, it all helps."



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There's a very good reason why so many denture wearers trust and recommend their Denturist: they appreciate the personal and expert attention that a Denturist provides. From initial consultation to laboratory and clinical creation of a denture, Denturists work closely with their patients at every stage of the denture process, creating comfortable smiles and building relationships that patients trust. A regulated health profession since 1994, Denturist services are recognized by leading insurance companies, and Denturists are fully accountable for the dentures they create.

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### Do I need a Denturist?

If you have missing, broken or loose teeth or existing dentures that are over five years old, take a few minutes to sit down with a Denturist for a consultation. Many options are available and your Denturist will find the solution that's right for you. As denture specialists, Denturists are professionals in replicating your natural teeth and can be consulted without a referral. Annual checkups with your Denturist are recommended to ensure optimal oral health.

### Services provided by Denturists

- oral examinations and consultation
- full dentures, immediate dentures (a denture made prior to tooth extraction and placed immediately after teeth are pulled), partial dentures (to replace one or more, but not all your teeth)
- implant retained and supported dentures
- repair of broken dentures
- relining and rebasing of loose dentures
- cleaning and polishing of dentures
- placement of wax in dentures
- soft liners

Some Denturists offer additional services, including mouthguards, tooth whitening and anti-snoring devices.

### The College of Denturists of Ontario

The College of Denturists of Ontario (CDOO) is a member of the Federation of Regulated Health Colleges of Ontario and is the regulatory body that certifies (licenses) and governs Denturists within the province of Ontario. The mandate of the CDOO is to



## Dentures 1-2-3

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serve the public interest by maintaining the highest standards of qualification and ethics for its members in accordance with the Regulated Health Professions Act and the Denturist Act.

Denturists must be licensed with the College of Denturists of Ontario in order to practise in Ontario, and their Certificate of Registration (license) must be prominently displayed in their office.

Circle 16 readers indicate there was a high level of satisfaction among denture wearers with their Denturist (96%) and an equally high level (95%) stated that they would recommend their Denturist.

## RESOURCES FOR CAREGIVERS

### Websites

**The Canadian Caregiver Coalition** ([www.cc-ccan.ca](http://www.cc-ccan.ca)) is the national voice for the needs and interests of family caregivers.

**Caregiver Network Inc.** ([www.caregiver.ca](http://www.caregiver.ca)) has gained an international reputation for providing uniquely personal information to help caregivers meet the challenges of eldercare.

**Canadian Mental Health Association** ([www.cmha.ca](http://www.cmha.ca)) promotes good mental health and advocates for social change.

**Living Lessons** ([www.living-lessons.org](http://www.living-lessons.org)) and Info Line (1-877-203-4636) provide a wealth of information on end-of-life issues and has an extensive list of useful resources.

**Canadian Hospice Palliative Care Association** ([www.chpca.net](http://www.chpca.net)) is Canada's national association in hospice/palliative care.

**The VON website** ([www.von.ca](http://www.von.ca)) provides links and a caregiving section.

**Peel Regional Health** ([www.region.peel.on.ca/health](http://www.region.peel.on.ca/health)) presents a valuable list of caregiver responsibilities to help you organize.

### Other useful sites include

**Alzheimer Society of Canada** ([www.alzheimer.ca](http://www.alzheimer.ca))  
**Canadian Association for Community Care** ([www.cacc-accsc.com](http://www.cacc-accsc.com))  
**Family Caregiver Magazine** ([www.thefamilycaregiver.com](http://www.thefamilycaregiver.com))  
**Human Resources and Skills Development Canada** ([www.hrsdc.gc.ca](http://www.hrsdc.gc.ca))  
**Minister of State for Families and Caregivers** ([www.sdc.gc.ca](http://www.sdc.gc.ca))  
**Parkinson Society Canada** ([www.parkinson.ca](http://www.parkinson.ca))

### Books

**Raising Your Parents: Support Strategies for Meeting the Challenge of Aging in the Family** Mandurcenty, Bart and Gordon, Michael. Dandelion Press, 2002.

**Caregiver Survival Stories** Sherman, James R. Pathway Books, 1994.

**Complete Canadian Eldercare Guide** Tapp-McDougall, Caroline. Wiley Canada, 2004.

**Caregiving as Four Parents Age** Rhodes, Linda, M.D. Silver (Penguin Canada) 2005.

So will the increase in the medical expense tax credit that has been budgeted. The compassionate leave program is also under review to broaden its application.

One of the biggest challenges to new caregivers is figuring out the playing field. "Very often, they don't know what's available," says Lynne. "They need access to information about these services." Provinces also vary in their delivery of services, with different levels of sophistication.

Iaino also believes that caregiving has to be much more of a community responsibility. No one can do it alone, although many people do their best. One potential solution might be to make the compassionate leave program more like parental leave—create only one two-week waiting period and let more than one person use the same benefits so friends and family can take a turn providing respite to a primary caregiver.

Whatever happens on the caregiving front, it will be the result of active lobbying from the front lines. Porter believes the time for action is now. "We've studied the issues. We've heard the stories. We know about the hidden costs and the contributions." She is encouraged that people are asking the right questions and pushing for the right changes.

While Iaino says that this issue goes beyond party politics, clearly nothing is going to make as big a difference as an existent voter population. Pressure to create a national caregiving network with a baseline of service across provinces and regions must come from caregivers themselves.

As Linda Lynne succinctly puts it: "Any one of us can become a caregiver at any moment, and we often don't have a chance to prepare for it. There but for the grace of God go I." ■



## Grey Power Caregiver Awards



Dore LeBlanc, 2005  
National Award  
Recipient

Each day, over 2 million Canadians provide some form of ongoing care to a family member or loved one. Grey Power Insurance Brokers is committed to acknowledging exceptional caregivers in Canada who reach out, above and beyond, to enhance the daily lives of those with an illness or disability. The Grey Power Caregiver Awards recognize these inspiring caring heroes and their individual contributions to our community.

This year, the national award goes to Dore LeBlanc for a lifetime of caregiving. Dore has provided ongoing care for two of her five children, Patrick, age 48, who is mentally challenged and subject to seizures; and David, age 38, who has Down's Syndrome. In addition, she has taken many elderly relatives into her home and cared for them during periods of severe illness. We also recognize the outstanding care provided by Debra Charlesworth, Irene and Michael Cranstone, Morteau Ganet, Gertrude MacMullin and Gladys Truett, the 2005 regional award recipients.

As a leading provider of home and auto insurance to the 50+ market, we know that insurance is not just about protecting material goods, it's about planning ahead to safeguard quality of life. Grey Power's sponsorship of the Caregiver Awards springs from that philosophy and a commitment to our communities.

For more information on the Caregiver Awards visit [www.greypower.com](http://www.greypower.com) or call 416.440.8717.

MAAM THINKS to our judges who had the difficult task of selecting these award recipients from the many outstanding nominations are: **DAVE PORTER, VP, Victorian Order of Nurses, MICHAEL SHYD, CEO, Alberta Cancer Health Corporation, JO ANNE SCORR, Executive Director, The Arthritis Society, Ontario, ANDBA SPINDEL, President and CEO, Chantal-Mandi, of Domes, ELIANA CRAMPILL, Manager, ING Canada**

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# SAMANTHA THE SEXPERT

Sex and the City's Kim Cattrail has reinvented herself as a writer on eroticism, but says her own sexual awakening occurred rather late in life

**HAVING ESCAPED AN UGLY** September in New York City, Kim Cattrail settles into the Four Seasons' bar for a late-afternoon tea. But Grey Decaf. She's here to talk about sex—specifically her new book, *Sexual Intelligence*—but during the non-hour scenes hyper-enthusiastic staff in red mugs.

"Is the water hot enough?"

"Is the room too cold?"

"Is it quiet enough?"

While a wait-stress, Cattrail checks each out without complaint—including a manager who hovers for about a minute without ever saying a word, like a nervous fan who's too star-struck to ask for an autograph.

Unlike Samantha Jones, the ultra stylish Sex and the City nympho who made her fame, Cattrail speaks in a slow, husky whisper. Her voice is soothing, but not especially sexy. Good thing, too.

**"I GREW** up on Vancouver Island in Lee Rider jeans and tie-dyed T-shirts and have always felt comfortable like that."

Exactly. Unlike those in more casual than you might expect. Today, she's wearing cotton capris, a pretty printed shirt and simple flats. No jewelry (not even a watch). Her blond hair is pulled back in a loose ponytail. "I'm very low maintenance," says Cattrail. "I grew up on Vancouver Island in Lee Rider jeans, tie-dyed T-shirts and running shoes and have always felt comfortable like that."

But don't take it even for a New York minute that Samantha Jones is dead. The show's over, but the 49-year-old actress, who proved that exogams can be cool, isn't leaving her TV persona (aka tabloid paragon). In fact, she's building a mini empire around Samantha's favorite pastime, and repre-

senting herself as a real-life sexpert.

This transformation began in 2002, when Cattrail co-authored *Sexification: The Art of the Female Orgasm*, with then husband Mark Levinson (name our guest sex woman's name). And now, this month, she's set to release a heavily illustrated book of erotic expression, *Sexual Intelligence* (the accompanying documentary, made by Cattrail's production company, airs Nov. 28 on the Discovery Channel). "Samantha gave me this platform," she says. "Why would I distance myself from something that's life-enriching and one of the purest self-expressions?"

Not being a trained pro should stop most people. But Cattrail believes that that's the searching for answers, like everyone else, is a strength. "I'm not an therapist," says Cattrail. "I'm just in a good position to ask ques-

tions. In my book are the questions who've dedicated their lives toward sexuality."

Not surprisingly, when she lived with the notion that she's cashing in on her notoriety by writing about sex, she got defensive. "This book took 2½ years," recounts Cattrail. "That is, there are a lot of time-consuming and more lucrative ways of making it on my terms." Good thing she's drinking decaf.

**"I'VE ALWAYS** been very partial to John...**"** Cattrail is responding to a question about her favorite slang for penis. "One of my earliest boyfriends called it his Johnson. I didn't know why it was called that. Neither did he. I just always thought it was fun." In addition to a discussion of genital slang, her



very frank, 144-page book is filled with short bits on such topics as feminism, desire and friction. In the documentary, Cattrail tramples around therapy in a trench coat (joking, as one only wants, in some kind of anecdotal), coddling up to ancient art phalluses. "There is a place missing between pornography and the clinical and psycho-

logical examination of sexuality," says Cattrail. "It was frustrating to go back in time and seeing how sexuality was so much a part of everyday life—network depicting men with large penises that represent something positive. And seeing, through female-centric Sexuality was celebrated in a way that is my lifetime has never been a reality."

But the small screen time doesn't overshadow herself an educator, just a pathfinder. And she hopes her books resonate with young women in particular. *Sexification* recently resonated with Tracey Spear, who recently ended Cattrail with a groupie and an on-call. When hearing about this, the actress's face glowed up from her couch,

looking confused. "My book has nothing about teaching and sex," says Cattrail, who coincidentally played Spears' mother in the pop star's 2000 film debut, *Crucial*. "It's all about concentration."

Cattrail says it's taken her a long time to feel good about sex. She didn't date very much in high school, and for years felt ashamed from her crux add. "I had closed that shop," she says, "and come to terms with it." Then she met Levinson, her third husband, in 1995 (coincidentally, that was her first season as Samantha). He helped her discover a sexual freedom she hadn't previously enjoyed. "I was so satisfied to define myself outside of who everyone thought I was—that being, Samantha," says Cattrail. "A lot of people thought that I had a graceless life. I didn't. And I wanted women to think, 'If she can stand up and say it, so can I.'"

These days, Cattrail gets a high out of all the more academic research devoted to the evolutionary use of the female orgasm. "When was pleasure low on the list of what you wanted in life?" says Cattrail. "I don't consider myself a hedonist, but a pleasurable experience is high on mine."

When Cattrail talks about her own dating exploits, Samantha switches back on—sheh finally lets loose in, drops her hands together and starts her elbow on the table. Her voice shifts from soft to sultry. "I like

Cattrail as a man," she says, making a effort to make a non-ambiguous. Cattrail recently dated 27-year-old Ryan (who beats a past

relationship to Jason Lewis, the model/actor who played Smith for Joel Samard's TV boyfriend on *Sex*

and the City). She won't confirm if they're still together, saying only that she isn't taking anything too seriously right now and doesn't expect to get married again.

A grand old man of Cattrail's past: her younger mom, and, just as a rising film star in the early '80s, she fell for Peter Onorato. Cattrail, then 37 years his junior, met the





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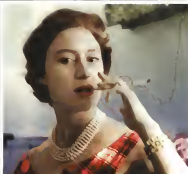
## THE DARK PRINCESS

An upcoming TV drama showcases Margaret's tempestuous life

**SHE WAS THE FIRST** to allow the public to see that the royals were like any other family, with problems and complications of their own. She was the first royal to embrace the *Swinging Sixties*, the first member of the royal inner circle to continue to get a divorce, the first to become daily tabloid fodder. Now, three years after her death, she will be the first to have her life lavishly portrayed in a TV drama—one showing her having macous tea, committing adultery, taking drugs and plotting a lesbian kiss. The life of Queen Elizabeth II's younger sister, HRH Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon, begins in style.

The telenovela, called *The Queen's Sister* and produced by London's Touchpaper Television for Britain's Channel 4, will be broadcast on the U.K. on Nov. 24—but then already scored a prequel as a Motion picture. Margaret's former lady-in-waiting, Lady Carmen Alexander, called on viewers to boycott the program, saying, "The production company has taken the life of a very dignified woman and, despite the lack of any co-operation from her family and friends, has turned it into a sordid soap opera." Margaret's husband from 1960 to 1978, the photographer Antony Armstrong-Jones, 1st Earl of Snowdon, 75, is reportedly "incandescent with rage." Lord Snowdon, who was not contacted during the making of the film, said, "If you know somebody was making a film in which your wife was portrayed as having lesbian affairs, drinking too much and having raw, what would you do?" And the princess's son, Viscount Lascelles—now a highly respected custom-furniture maker in London—declined to comment. But a friend said: "He and his family are very upset. He doesn't want to give the program the oxygen of publicity by commenting, but feels very strongly that it is an extremely poor treat."

The drama portrays the princess naked and having sex so vigorously that she reportedly bangs her head against her bedroom wall in Kensington Palace. She is also depicted taking drugs with the Beatles, stumbling around while drunkenly inebriated, and snarling off for an illicit tryst after performing a sex act on her husband. In yet another scene, Margaret gives a lingering kiss to Sherrin Douglas, the daughter of the American ambassador to the Court of St. James's. A two-year affair between the women was first alleged in 2003 in an ITV documentary, *Margaret: The Secret Princess*, but Lord Snowdon dismisses the idea as poppycock. "Sherrin Douglas wasn't attractive to me," he says. "I don't think she would have been to Princess Margaret either. She'd look rather laugh."



The film depicts her taking drugs, having raw sex and plotting a lesbian kiss.

The film's particularly harsh take is on the royal, rather. Prince Philip is rendered as particularly odious, telling Lord Snowdon that his endless round of public engagements is tedious, but "there's always a bit of something going on." He adds: "One cannot be blamed for seeing to each one duty while the wife is going to hers."

The London pages have been filled with made-homes/haunts over the film's system. But to be fair to the producers, it is difficult to imagine any woman so level-headed as Princess Margaret that she did not already weather it in her own life. Touchpaper television claims to have based *The Queen's Sister* on "journalistic research," but then its title is the treatment that *embroider* have been gathered from a cursory read of the several biographies already published about her.

At the same time, the filmmakers have







## THE CIRCLE IS UNBROKEN

Indie rock darlings Broken Social Scene juggle fame, frustration and a new CD 'based around fear'

AT FIRST it was a group of close friends, all of them struggling musicians. Now Broken Social Scene is a group of successful musicians, all struggling to stay friends in the past few years. BSS has emerged as a major international indie rock/pop group. At the same time, several members have worn restless or isolated in their heads. "The scene is becoming more and more like the last couple of years," says Burnt-Blood singer Leslie Fiedt about the scattered Toronto "volunteers" of which she's a part-time member. "I'm out here, the love will find France. I'm sitting here, it's there in the morning, winding down, and I feel like that's our culture and it's like, 'We're back together, the family is here.' It doesn't mean crazy cohesiveness."

Broken Social Scene, which releases its much-anticipated third studio CD on Oct. 18, began with Kevin Drew and Brendan Campbell making an instrumental album,

*Feel Good Loss*, in 2004. Then they expanded, adding friends who played in other bands or had side projects to make music with them in a basement or at their local hangout, the bar Trill's Wrecking Yard. Now *People Have Frightened Us* was made with this crew of 10 abilities and released in 2009. The group became the source of the indie rock zeitgeist, with their album selling 150,000 copies.

In order to tour Canada, the U.S., Europe, Japan and elsewhere, Campbell and Drew threw together a rotating group of about a dozen of these friends, who would devote some of their time to this side project that grew into a force of its own. At BSS, social scene became famous, so did the other people and bands associated with it, including Fiedt, Jason Collier, the Apostles of

*The third album's dark album reflects, with a little bit of humor, the state of affairs.*

Huckle, Meane and Stars. And some have become more successful than BSS.

Now Campbell, 36, and Drew, 29, have to balance their happiness over their friends' success with the frustration of losing key components of their own band. "It's become something a lot more complicated than, 'We have a show at Trill's Wrecking Yard, are you in town?'" says Campbell. "It's now, 'We have a month-long tour, are you going to try and wrestle out of your band's tour with Brigitte Nyman in order to come with us?'" And for the past couple of years most have done a fair bit of wandering. "They're so committed," says Drew. "You cannot show any more loyalty than these people have. And we reach our shows, when we're all together, are a huge celebration." But it might not be like that anymore—Campbell and Drew haven't even lined up a full band for a tour that is supposed to start on Oct. 19.

This outing will showcase a new release that's quite a departure from the BSS attitude of the past. On the surface, all the band's members say it still feels on the self-reliant CD—the triumphant him, the full sets of lungs, the whip smart drumming, the ecstatic crescendos. But there are disconcerting sounds on the periphery of some songs. And once you penetrate the typically blaring, boisterous lyrics, you find the music so infused with anxiety. "It's a darker record," says Drew. "It's an album that's sort of based around fear. When we made *People Have Frightened Us* three years ago we were all very excited. We were going into the world clapping our hands, telling people to me these small good and hope, hope, hope. But it's a very, very dark time historically, and I think inside this record you can hear the ideas and urgency of it's not a happy place."

Some of the lyrics—especially those using by Drew—seem honest, vulnerable reflections on becoming famous along with your friends, and then finding you've lost your self and strained your relationships in the process. "When you're in a band and you start to do well," says Drew, "It's immediately a drug. We constantly were like *scowled* and *low-key* people, and it's a very very dangerous line to cross. Finally, I feel like I've been a drink driver for the last year, and I'm not going to be a part of that anymore."

Drink or not, Drew and his bandmates have somehow held it all together and recorded the music on a disc that's long overdue. ■

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## ALTITUDE SLICKNESS

A new breed of suspense thriller preys on our post-9/11 paranoia

**SOME MOVIES** you will never see on an airplane. You won't see *Passenger 57*, in which an armed terrorist forces his way into the cockpit, asks "Which one are you?" and, when the captain says "I am," shoots him dead. You won't see the airliner burst into flames on the runway in *Der Himmel über Berlin*, 2, killing everyone onboard. And you won't see this horrifying scene of screaming passengers and luggage flying from overhead bins as a jet crash-lands in Florida. All these movies were made before Sept. 11. Since then, the notion of real-life terrorism has become more loaded, to say the least. And Hollywood is crafting a new breed

of suspense thriller to prey on our post-9/11 paranoia about being packed in a premium and red-tinted mile-up with several hundred strangers. In *And Eye*, released last month, Canada's Rachel McAdams plays a nosedive 5th passenger who turns a halfhearted grin into a throat-piercing wail as she's held hostage in a smaller plot by the man sitting next to her. And now, in *Flightplan*, Jackie Foster portrays a frantic mother whose young daughter has gone missing aboard a jumbo jet above the Atlantic.

Even without hijackers, terrorists or crazing children, air travel has become a naturally nightmare-scape scenario. For most of us, the food alone is scary enough. And, after the September 11 attacks, the airline has become the ultimate vehicle for claustrophobia, a *Das Boot* cylinder of suspense that offers no escape. *Flightplan*'s Genesis director, Robert Schwick, the night appreciate the analogy. "Being on a long flight," he says in the film's press notes, "is a bit like being underwater." Or being in a movie theater, trapped with an audience of strangers. Just who is that creep sitting next to you in 12D? Or the guy gaming his laptop beside you in the multiplex?

*Flightplan* takes place almost entirely aboard the plane. Kyle (Foster) looks terrified from the opening shot, as she stares at the doors of a yellow airport train. Cut to her husband's coffin. He's just died in a mysterious fall, and Kyle is flying home with the body, her daughter in tow. We see them pre-board, the first to enter the plane, a most jumbo jet. It looks like an empty cinema, or a tomb. Gradually it fills up, and a family with lead, oblivious to all plans itself behind her. Across the aisle a crooked talking man (Peter Sarsgaard) settles into the in-

flight movie. "It's not funny," he says. "But at 36,000 feet, you can't get up and walk out of the theater." Right, we get *sea plane* is a drama with no exit.

Midway into the flight, Kyle wakes up to find her child gone. The crew has no record of her. Did the child ever exist? Kyle becomes hysterical, and disruptive, a possible for so many. Like the mirror audience of passengers in the movie, we don't know if we should be terrified for her, or of her. There are two possible explanations: either she's delusional or the victim of a peripatetic criminal conspiracy. Stop reading this right now if you're afraid. I'll spoil the plot. But think about it: all Hollywood thriller starring Jackie Foster as a fever mother in distress, who's diagnosed as crazy has just one possible outcome.

As with *And Eye*, the set-up is more tedious than the story, which doesn't really fly. The fictional plane jet is an airborne Titanic, with suspicious, a downstate, a hanging, heart-meat and trust. *Flightplan*, like *Passenger 57*, takes on boarding, down to the cargo hold, and up to the very cockpit of gaudy-cabined "intensity." The script pushes all the buttons. When Kyle confronts a couple of Arab travelers, causing the other passengers to become violently agitated, the plane turns into a mini-America—a flying patch of war of her national identity.

We haven't seen the end of airfare chills. Canadian actress Rachel Blanchard just shot *Smiles on a Plane*, in which an assassin unleashes a train of mysterious terror high over the Pacific. The genre combines risks are endless. How about sharks on a plane? A giant white bear out of a tank and it breathes executive class. Or a jet crashes in the Pacific, and doors jammed, and slowly fills up with water, as sharks circle the windows? Or worse still, you're stuck in a mobile seat beside two creepy guys hogging the armrests, watching a lousy in-flight movie.



Foster looks terrified from the opening shot, and turns into a jittery girl for Air Canada

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A photograph of a woman in a dark, patterned dress standing in a field of tall grass. She is surrounded by numerous white, ghost-like figures that appear to be floating or standing around her. The scene is dark and atmospheric, with a focus on the woman and the spectral figures.

Do they know it's Halloween? will be available Dec. 1, but you can hear it now at [www.pion-recording.com/halloween](http://www.pion-recording.com/halloween)

Oliver isn't so accepting. "We've been getting very concerned messages from [buddhism.about.com](http://buddhism.about.com)," says Gailkin. "They are people who are into Halloween all year round. They can be cruel saying, 'Could you please clarify your anti-Halloween activities to our five million viewers,' so Oliver has been defending the song on cyberspace." Fittingly, some will take it as a trick, for others it's definitely a treat.

Downloaded by [Johns Hopkins University] at 11:56 04 July 2015



## Kevin Smith finishes John Intini's sentences

Kevin Smith (Clark, *Jeepers*) is finally getting up for real. May, when he'll direct the much-delayed *Jeepers* movie—the climax of his long-running obsession with the classic Canadian TV series (the first R.L. Jeeps was the first time he saw *Jeepers* actor Hays). The 39-year-old, who celebrated the 10th anniversary of his hit film *The Hot Chick* last month, finished *Mastermind's* Associate Editor John Intini's sentences.

**MY JERSEY'S BEST-KEPT SECRET** — is pork ribs—a lunch meat you cut thick, throw on a grill and put on a stand with the greatest unconventional love story was Jaws. A bad-blooded relationship about two creators who

weren't right for one another but couldn't stay away from each other. THE LAST TIME I FELT TRAPPED... was at 22, still in my parents' house. When ever they went to visit relatives, I was. Part of my rebellion when launching my career was moving out and never going to a relative's house. I didn't want to. I'D LIKE MY LAST MEAL TO BE... a good lobster and jelly sandwich. THE STRANGEST THING ABOUT RELIGION... is that it's based on nothing but faith and has lasted this long in an age of science. That's impressive. I ALWAYS CARRY WITH ME... an extra set of 10 pants.

FOR MORE "JOHN INTINI'S SENTENCES" VISIT [WWW.MACLEANSCANADA.COM](http://WWW.MACLEANSCANADA.COM)



## Books | A murderous family affair

By 10 a.m. on Dec. 7, 1998, thousands of disappointed voters were waiting along Gordon's Dr. They had moved out on what they had come to the pretty Lake Huron town to see, according to John Intini in *Double Trap*, because the husband had carved out Canada's last public execution. Nicholas was the last originally scheduled to die in Double Trap, the son of Nicholas Intini—an ancestor of the writer, as were the two people for whose murders Nicholas was condemned—becomes more than just a participant in the long road to abolishing capital punishment. John Intini has turned his family disaster into an absorbing tale of racial hatred and personal healing. (2000, in considerable evidence Nicholas did not act alone in the murders, but he was the one who did it first and—read Intini's book—made everything worse.) **DOUBLEDAY** (New York) \$24.95



## Best Sellers

Fiction	Author	Weeks on list
1. <i>THE LAST THING HE REMEMBERED</i> (H)	Michael Chabon	10
2. <i>THE LAST THING HE REMEMBERED</i> (H)	Michael Chabon	10
3. <i>THE LAST THING HE REMEMBERED</i> (H)	Michael Chabon	10
4. <i>THE LAST THING HE REMEMBERED</i> (H)	Michael Chabon	10
5. <i>THE LAST THING HE REMEMBERED</i> (H)	Michael Chabon	10
6. <i>THE LAST THING HE REMEMBERED</i> (H)	Michael Chabon	10
7. <i>THE LAST THING HE REMEMBERED</i> (H)	Michael Chabon	10
8. <i>THE LAST THING HE REMEMBERED</i> (H)	Michael Chabon	10
9. <i>THE LAST THING HE REMEMBERED</i> (H)	Michael Chabon	10
10. <i>THE LAST THING HE REMEMBERED</i> (H)	Michael Chabon	10

Non-fiction	Author	Weeks on list
1. <i>THE LAST THING HE REMEMBERED</i> (H)	Michael Chabon	10
2. <i>THE LAST THING HE REMEMBERED</i> (H)	Michael Chabon	10
3. <i>THE LAST THING HE REMEMBERED</i> (H)	Michael Chabon	10
4. <i>THE LAST THING HE REMEMBERED</i> (H)	Michael Chabon	10
5. <i>THE LAST THING HE REMEMBERED</i> (H)	Michael Chabon	10
6. <i>THE LAST THING HE REMEMBERED</i> (H)	Michael Chabon	10
7. <i>THE LAST THING HE REMEMBERED</i> (H)	Michael Chabon	10
8. <i>THE LAST THING HE REMEMBERED</i> (H)	Michael Chabon	10
9. <i>THE LAST THING HE REMEMBERED</i> (H)	Michael Chabon	10
10. <i>THE LAST THING HE REMEMBERED</i> (H)	Michael Chabon	10

1. Based on the book by John Intini.

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## SHE DID US PROUD

Adrienne Clarkson showed the world the best could be Canadian

ON TUESDAY, SEPT. 23, Michelle Jean will become Canada's 27th governor general. There will be some tension in the room. Miss Jean has attracted some recent controversy. She might want to coin a phrase: the example of her predecessor, now just another ordinary Canadian after an extraordinary year.

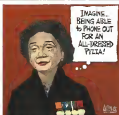
Clarkson was a controversial figure too, six years ago, and for some of the same reasons: soft-spoken, Toronto-born, CBC journalist, culture vulture. Just another little snail. I don't believe a single speech has ever done so much to silence a pair of critics in this country as

Clarkson's installation speech did. Not all of them, of course, and not forever. But from that first speech it was clear Clarkson was making the bar.

I helped the speech—why expect anything but perfection from a new governor-general?—and said it again late that night on TV. Before it was over I was in tears. "We are embracing something different here," Clarkson said. "We have the opportunity to leave behind the unkind blood calls of generations, now that we are in the new land that stretches to infinity. Wind and sea understand that clearly. We have made a compact greater and more glorious than that of any country," he said. "We have conquered our thorns."

Sober's joyous Adrienne Clarkson speech. I like friends who prefer her eulogy for the Unknown Soldier, which she delivered in May 2000. "Today we are gathered together in awe, to bury someone's son. The only person about here is that he was young. If death is a debt we all must pay, he paid before he owed it.... Did he read poetry? Did he get into fights? Did he have freckles? Did he drink nobody understood here? ... Is he going home? Is he really through duty, commitment, love and honour he has become part of us forever. As we are part of him."

Clarkson made her admission for the Canadian address one of the most inspiring moments of her six years as governor general. She visited the wounded, travelled to Afghanistan and the Persian Gulf, delivered the Governor General's Mackinac Island



Model to US crash-landers. Last Wednesday, the Canadian Forces showed their gratitude with an unprecedented and deeply emotional ceremony. Lt.-Gen. Rick Hillier, the chief of defence staff, thanked her for helping Canadians in uniform look "past a decade of darkness, past a long period of uncertainty and past a frightening future of shame."

And she did it all by speaking about her admiration for them. "We've grown too bold in Canada about the power of public eloquence. One of Clarkson's gifts was to remind us how much we have to talk about and how healthy it can be when we finally do. Of course, she always courted controversy, wouldn't have been fun if she didn't. She liked to travel. It's something she's grown adept about, as if we had nothing to learn from the world, or to teach it. I enjoyed Clarkson's 2001 trip to Germany. She packed even from early morning to late at night. When she and John Robson

Sped right up, it was like following three or four ants into a hole.

In *Disorderly*, she chaired a panel discussion on literature. The Canadian panelists were Michel Marc Bouchard, whose first language was French, Jason Sherman, whose first language was English, and Jessica Hagedorn, whose first language was Cree. Clarkson knew their work well. Barker, in Berlin, a young German woman shook physically, tears in her eyes, at the chance to ask Aaron Eggevoen a question about his film. We read politicians and businessmen overseas all the time. Clarkson always brought part of the Canadian soul.

In 2003, she visited Kosovo and Ireland and Finland, with actors and scholars in tow. She got into a world of trouble. The criticism seemed to assume that concerns were beneath Canada's contempt. "Most of our made in with the United States," a prominent Ottawa journalist told me in the time, "and Clarkson and I will be going to Finland? What a bunch of communitarians."

No. Not communitarians. Women, on all our behalf, on the struggle against Communism. In Russia, Clarkson visited a gulag and, in Helsinki, she visited the Hietanen Cemetery, which houses the 84,000 Poles who died fighting off the Soviets she brought people like Gen. Duhon, a specialist in comparative Aboriginal studies from Lund University, and Skelagh Graham, an expert on federal public policy for the Bar. Their country had probably never shown them off as examples of the best among us. Adrienne Clarkson did.

Greg Dine has written that Miles Davis turned defense strategies on their head and made being black a synonym for the best of everything. Adrienne Clarkson did the same with being Canadian. Poles had to act to scholarship to the love of a good debate: the best could be Canadian. Around her it usually was. I'm grateful to have known her. ■

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